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Monday April 1 1996

Abu Dhabi D 50	Albania L 20	Andorra FF 10	Australia AS 25	Bahrain BD 0.55	Belgium BE 50	Bulgaria L 170	Croatia HR 12.50	Cyprus CC 1.00	Czech Republic KC 45	Denmark DK 15	Dubai D 10	Egypt EG 50	Finland FA 11	France FF 10	Germany DM 1.50	Greece D 350	Hong Kong HK 25	Italy I 200	Japan Y 100	Korea KR 150	Kuwait KD 0.50	Latvia LV 2	Lithuania LT 3000	Luxembourg LF 55	Malta ML 42	Netherlands G 4.00	Norway NK 15	Oman OR 1.00	Pakistan PK 10	Poland P 200	Portugal P 200	Qatar QR 10	Romania RS 2.00	Russia RU 2.00	Saudi Arabia R 10	Slovakia SK 55	Slovenia SL 250	Spain S 225	Sweden SK 18	Switzerland SF 3	Taiwan TW 100	Thailand TH 10	Turkey TL 100.000	USA US 2.75	Zimbabwe Z 7.00
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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,516

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Maggie Brown on David Attenborough

## Knight of natural history

G2 with European weather

Peter Stanford on the Joker to Jesus's Batman

## The Devil

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What's the Big Idea?

## Media

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# Hopes on beef ban dashed

### New package goes to EU ministers

John Palmer in Brussels, Owen Bowcott and Michael White

**T**HE Government's hopes of an immediate end to the European Union's world-wide ban on British beef exports collapsed last night as Whitehall officials worked to complete a package of anti-BSE measures designed to staunch haemorrhaging public confidence in the industry.

Even if the revised proposals being submitted to an emergency meeting of EU farm ministers in Luxembourg today are judged sufficiently credible to reassure Europe's beef consumers, the ban imposed last week will not be lifted straight away, senior EU officials signalled yesterday.

With every link in the beef industry suffering enormous strain from the revelation that BSE in cattle may, after all, be linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, is desperate to do whatever Europe's scientists — and public opinion — require to stem the crisis.

Cadburys confirmed that its range of mini-eggs, Strokers and Curly Wurly bars, all of which contain gelatin from cattle hides, could be affected by the EU ban. However, disenchanted with British beef may be bottoming out, the Safeway supermarket chain suggested, as cut-price top quality meat had sold out by lunchtime at one London

store. "We will have to wait and see, but people are returning tentatively," a spokesman said.

Glasgow, however, said that beef products would disappear from all of the city's 260 schools and adult training centres from today, after pressure from parents and teachers. "Beef dishes, even as a choice, were not selling," a spokesman said.

After talks in Brussels on Friday, the agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler, warned Mr Hogg that the Government still had not gone far enough to assure everyone about the safety of the food chain, nor to satisfy EU concerns about the rigour with which existing slaughterhouse controls are being enforced in Britain.

Rightwing Tory MPs, who believe Europe's own controls are inferior to Britain's, were not appeased when Britain's two EU commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, said in television interviews that lifting the ban would be a matter of weeks, not days — possibly within the agreed six week review period, Mr Kinnock suggested.

"Everybody has accepted that what one is now talking about is not just measures that are scientifically necessary but measures to restore public confidence," Sir Leon conceded on BBC1's Breakfast with Frost.

Speaking on LWT's Cross-talk, Mr Kinnock confirmed what British ministers insist has always been the case in EU finances, that the promised support from Brussels for

what may be a \$2.5 billion programme to kill older cattle will have to be offset against the annual budget rebate obtained by Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Hogg's performance is being privately criticised by Tory MPs. But reports that he offered to resign were described as "a silly story" by his officials.

Before the start of today's farm ministers' meeting, Mr Hogg will present a new plan, agreed with EU officials, for tackling the BSE crisis. It is expected to propose culling all cows over 30 months, as well as a selective slaughter of entire herds with a proven rate of BSE infection, in line with pressure from beef farmers.

The cull of 800,000 30-month cows could be spread over five years. Estimates of the additional cost of selective herd slaughter are put at £1 to £2 billion.

It may prove hard to persuade EU colleagues that Britain is able to put in place a more effective system for monitoring slaughterhouses to ensure that existing rules are not flouted, or that infectious parts of the carcass are observed.

"We have all been reading only this weekend reports from Britain suggesting that spot checks of slaughterhouses show a disturbing picture. There are suggestions that in half the cases the mandatory slaughter procedures may not have been implemented," one EU official said.

Even if the Commission and EU farm ministers give their formal blessing to any package which Mr Hogg will bring to Luxembourg, it would still need the backing of a qualified majority of member states before the ban was lifted, one commission source said.

Letters, and Roy Hattersley, page 8

Pandemonium breaks out as deadline for British travel papers expires



Two among thousands of Hong Kong residents who queued at Immigration Tower to beat yesterday's midnight deadline for British passport applications

## Hong Kong rushes for last way out

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

**N**OT since the trauma of the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 have so many people marched with such grim determination through the shiny glass and marble caverns of Hong Kong.

From the Wanchai Sports Stadium, commandeered by police to accommodate the throng, to the doors of Immigration Tower yesterday snaked an anxious procession almost a mile long.

In the 24 hours up to midnight last night, the deadline for Hong Kong residents seeking the only kind of British passport on offer, a second-class travel document, some 52,845 people made the long, slow trek — 30,000 more than applied in all of last year.

Amid scenes of pandemonium, Yau Sul-chun, a woman aged 61, was escorted by police through a scrum of television cameras and photographers to become the last person in the last major British colony to apply for British nationality.

Frustration erupted into violence on Saturday when a man clubbed a queue-jumper with his mobile phone. Four people were arrested.

The stampede to declare allegiance to the crown began last Monday, with 8,000 applications. But it reached its peak yesterday, in a week that has seen Hong Kong's confidence battered.

Already alarmed at China lobbing missiles off the coast of Taiwan, Hong Kong has had to digest Beijing's moves to abolish the elected legislature, its ostracism of the one pro-China adviser who dared defy the decision, and its imposition of a loyalty test on senior civil servants.

While tycoons — many with real foreign passports — cheer their optimism, the mostly Chinese-born resi-

dents crowded outside Immigration Tower display the unease felt by many ordinary people.

It is a display far more potent than yesterday's 50-strong anti-China protest outside the headquarters of the Xinhua News Agency, China's diplomatic mission. "I wish China's leaders could see all those people queuing up. That is the real voice of the Hong Kong people," said Martin Lee, a barrister and pro-democracy campaigner.

"Why should we Chinese not welcome 1997 with enthusiasm instead of queuing up to get British papers in the dying days of the British empire? People are so desperate, so afraid, they will do anything, even wait for hours to get a worthless passport."

Some 700 immigration service officials worked through the night to process applications for British Dependent Territories Citizenship (BDTC) — a status that allows no right of abode in Britain but offers an alternative to the Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports to be issued by Beijing after 1997.

A Chinese official yesterday denied that the rush represented a vote of no confidence. "Everyone acts like this just before a deadline," Zheng Guosong said.

Queuers had a different explanation. "You have to tell China what I think. This is a protest, people are worried," Donald Yip said. His wife tapped him on the back to shut up. "You see," he said, "even my wife is worried."

While many cited concern that Chinese passports will not provide visa-free entry abroad, they voiced unease about China's intentions.

"I'm not involved in politics but I don't trust the government in China," said Liu Yam, a jeweller from Kowloon.

"They say Hong Kong people can take care of their own affairs but they are already interfering in our business."

## Royal web war feared as Queen sets up site in cyberspace

Nick Davis Royal Reporter

**T**HE QUEEN took her critics by surprise yesterday by taking her first steps into cyberspace. Buckingham Palace announced that she has opened her own web site on the internet, false footing those who have dismissed the monarchy as an anachronism in the age of the infobahn.

In a welcome message on her new "home page", at <http://www.windsor.co.uk>, the Queen says: "It is our hope that these electronic pages will bring us closer to the lives and interests of our younger subjects."

The web site offers com-

puter users an interactive tour of Buckingham Palace, a quiz about the history of the royal family and pages about royal pursuits.

The Queen's move into cyberspace won immediate support from Tory backbencher Sir Nigel Howton, whose Norfolk constituency borders on Royal properties at Sandringham.

"One advantage is that she can speak directly to her people — without Fleet Street distorting the message," he said.

But some of the first to connect up with the site believe she may have been given bad advice. "It is superficially attractive," said Jack Schofield, editor of Computing Age, "but there are huge holes in the sub-

jects her web pages cover — just about royal finances going right and virtually nothing about royal marriages going wrong. Princess Di doesn't seem to exist in the virtual monarchy."

However, friends of Princess Diana are setting up web sites in what looks like an effort to start a "web war". Jo-Jo Williams, self-styled "Princess of the Net Surfers," said: "Princess Di will be queen in our cyber space and Charles will feel as though he has fallen into a black hole."

But more seasoned royal war watchers thought the Queen had subtler ambitions than stalling the limelight, noticing that her web site offers her virtual subjects the chance to swear an oath of fealty in an "on-line audience".

Buckingham Palace has plans to confer honours on virtual subjects — and the Queen will not need to confer with her Prime Minister. "It is as if Her Majesty has regained all those powers which, over centuries, Parliament has abrogated," said Lord Fawcley, an authority on the constitution.

"Now she can demonstrate — albeit in a virtual world — the enduring strength of monarchical government."

## Boot camps 'muddle'

David Fairhall and Alan Travis

**G**OVERNMENT plans to use the military prison at Colchester as a "boot camp" for young civilian offenders have been condemned as muddled and irrelevant by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham.

Sir David is well qualified to assess the Colchester boot camp scheme. As the army's former adjutant general, he was responsible for the military corrective training centre there. But although he has made known to the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, his concerns about introducing civilian offenders, they have evidently been ignored.

Sir David believes the idea of mixing civilian youngsters with military personnel is the result of "muddled thinking" — a political answer, he suspects, to the "Bring back National Service" lobby.

"I'm just not sure of the relevance of military training for young offenders," he says, "forming them up in threes and marching them around".



"I'm just not sure of the relevance of military training for young offenders, forming them up in threes and marching them around"

General Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons

Last year Sir David succeeded Judge Stephen Timmins, who had become a thorn in Mr Howard's side by refusing to endorse the Home Secretary's headline populist approach. The general's army nickname, "Rambo", may have suggested that here was a man who would be in tune with Mr Howard's policy of heavy sentencing, prison austerity and boot camps. In fact, Sir David believes that although prison conditions

## Inside

**Britain**  
Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown welcomed the prospect of a US-style televised debate with John Major

**World News**  
Barbara Bush is at the centre of a \$4 million libel suit that accuses her and George Bush of being malicious liars

**Finance**  
Stakeholding has its roots in a creed that has been frozen out during the bleak years of Thatcherite decline

**Sport**  
Manchester United and Liverpool will contest the FA Cup final at Wembley. Damon Hill won the Brazilian Grand Prix

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Gift from Virginia Woolf's niece inspires a Bohemian retrospective



A leopard from Simon Bussy's animal series, and his portraits of (below right) his wife, Dorothy Strachey, and (below left) the writer André Gide

Left Bank meets Bloomsbury to toast portraits of two ladies

Nobel prizewinners André Gide and Roger Martin du Gard... Both their portraits are on show — Du Gard, because he translated Dorothy Bussy's autobiographical novel, Olivia, and Gide because of Dorothy's passion for the French writer, which led to the publication of volumes of their correspondence and English translations of his work.

Illustrate several books. The original paintings form much of the exhibition, along with Bussy's series on animals and fishes — hence the exhibition's title, From the Zoo to the Gentry. But the animal paintings are unlikely to do as much for his reputation as the 19 portraits, most of which were dispersed among private collections in a sale in

1964, 10 years after Bussy's death in London. Ms Garnett found the paintings of Dorothy and Janie in a portfolio. "I bought them because they were so lovely — not because of the family connections," she said. "Bussy was very underestimated as a painter because his life was shared between Britain and France."



Paul Webster in Beauvais

Janie, both of whom died in 1960.

DESCENDANTS and admirers of the Bloomsbury group and Paris Left Bank intellectuals will meet in this northern French town today for the inauguration of the biggest retrospective of works by Simon Bussy, the French painter whose wife was Dorothy Strachey. Although nearly 130 of Bussy's oil paintings and pastels will be shown — most for the first time — Beauvais has no direct link with the exchange between two of the most influential cultural sets of the pre-war years. But it is to become the permanent home for Bussy's portraits of his wife and their daughter

Among those invited today will be Angelica Garnett, the sculptor and niece of Virginia Woolf. Her book Deceived with Kindness was about her Bloomsbury childhood with her parents Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, both painters. She now lives in Provence, and it was her recent gift of the portraits of Dorothy and Janie that inspired the retrospective. The Louvre gave the paintings to Beauvais Museum for its mid-20th century collection. But it was a GP from the Pas-de-Calais, Philippe Loisel, who traced the links between Bloomsbury and the Left Bank's Nouvelle Revue Française through writers such as the

Both these are only two of the cultural figures, from Lytton Strachey to Henri Matisse, whose influence on the lives of the Bussys makes the Beauvais exhibition a mine of raw biographical material.

"I am distantly related to Bussy, whose family came from Dole [near Switzerland] where they were shoemakers for generations," Dr Loisel said. He traced about 500 Bussy paintings, mostly in private British collections, including the Rothschilds'.

"Bussy studied in Gustave Moreau's class with Matisse, Rouault and Marquet. His first contact with the Strachey was with Pernel, who was studying at the Sorbonne. In 1903, after settling in London, he married Dorothy, who was five years older."

The links between Bloomsbury and the Nouvelle Revue Française after the couple moved to Roquebrune, on the Riviera, to a house called La Sonce, which Virginia Woolf despised. It was there, and during regular visits to London — where Bussy taught Grant — that they lived the classic life of struggling artists, providing bed and breakfast for many cultural leaders of their generation. Bussy — ironic and very French, in Woolf's description — lived in Roquebrune opposite Gabriel Hanotter, a historian who took him to Egypt and Sudan to

Major tests feeling on water industry competition

PM signals retreat over capital gains

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major signalled a cautious pre-election retreat from his pledge to abolish capital gains tax at the weekend when he refrained from bracketing it with his now-familiar commitment to "cut and, when possible, abolish" inheritance tax.

The Prime Minister's speech to the Conservative central council's spring conference in Harrogate bore the hallmarks of a market-testing operation to see which themes will play well with the voters when he goes to the country, either in October-November or, more likely, in April or May 1997.

In spite of the BSE scare and low poll ratings, many activists left Harrogate convinced by ministerial assurances that their party has finally turned the corner.

"Bucking the trend is the story of my life," Mr Major told them.

As well as relaunching known policy initiatives — ranging from "choice" in schools to the imminent white paper on insurance options for financing long-term care for the elderly — he trailed Environment Secretary John Gummer's move later today against the privatised water industry.

The industry would soon face competition — in the form of a pipeline network that would allow one water company to sell its product, initially only to industrial clients, in another company's

territory. Given the uproar against the industry as "fat cats" who pay little in tax, senior executives, that should prove popular.

But it underlines the folly of attempting the technically complex task of modifying or abolishing capital gains tax in the run-up to an election, since Labour would say ministers were protecting the chiefs of privatised utilities who have done well from share options.

No decisions on capital gains or inheritance taxes.

Premier remains committed to the emotive issue of abolishing inheritance tax

which are cumbersome to collect and yield barely £5 billion, have yet been made. Officials said Saturday's omission from Mr Major's text was caused by lack of space. But the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is thought to be wary of Mr Major's enthusiasm, not least because accountants know how to avoid such taxes anyway.

During the recent Finance Bill some Tory MPs called for capital gains tax to be phased out or "tapered" so that the longer investors hung on to shares the less tax they would have to pay. One concession, extra allowances for entrepreneurs who sell out at 50

instead of 55, was introduced by Treasury minister Michael Jack.

Mr Major remains committed to the emotive issue of abolishing inheritance tax even though critics complain that few of the relatively few voters who have enough money — net worth over £200,000 — to qualify for the tax are unworried enough not to avoid paying it.

"I can't defend a tax that stops children inheriting what their parents have worked to earn and save," he told party workers. "It's a tax on the family, and helping the family is what we're about."

The passage which attracted most media attention was also dear to party activists hearts, the Prime Minister's confirmation that a green/white consultation paper is imminent to set out plans, first outlined in last year's budget, to ring-fence some assets of those who insure themselves against the need for costly long-term care in old age.

Endorsing Peter Lilley's "partnership principle" — borrowed from the US where its success has been limited — Mr Major said: "Someone who pays for their own care out of an insurance policy will then be given a higher capital exemption from the means test applied by local authorities for long term care fees when the insurance runs out."

Some 40,000 people are believed to have had to sell their homes to pay such fees. Insurance of £50,000-£80,000 would protect some equity — if they can afford it.

Attention all shipping: some weather is missing

John Ezzard

EIGHT names as familiar as and more beloved than the cast of The Archers are due to vanish from BBC shipping forecasts from today.

They are the coastal resorts Fife Ness, Bridlington and Dover, plus the inshore waters Walton-on-the-Naze, St Catherine's Point, Mumbles, Liverpool Crosby and Larnae.

And much less crucial weather information will be broadcast on five sea areas cherished both by those who go down to the sea in ships and those who like to imagine themselves doing so. The areas are Dogger, Thames, Wight, Lundy and Rockall.

The names, spoken on air since broadcasting started in the 1950s, were due to disappear from midnight because of a dispute between coastguards and the Coastguard Agency. Other famous names, such as Malin, Fair Isle and Ronaldsway, are considered safe because most of their data is collected electronically.

The dispute arose when the agency told the Met Office to stop paying coastguards 80p for each report, which gives some an extra £500 a year. But the agency has asked them to keep filing reports.

One coastguard said, "Several times, when we've been too busy to file our coastal waters report, people have phoned up and said, 'Why weren't we mentioned on the shipping forecast?'"

The regime that will face the persistent teenage offenders sent there. It will be austere, with an emphasis on drill, and with few privileges.

Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers said: "The clear signal that the army and not the Prison Service is to manage the military camp, with its emphasis on drill and polished boots, means that short, sharp, shock is back with a vengeance."

Prison inspector dismisses boot camp plan

continued from page 1

The regime is intended to rehabilitate, but is designed specifically for uniformed personnel.

The chief inspector is not the only person with reservations about the boot camp. Last week the Prison Governors' Association passed a resolution demanding that a civilian governor should be in charge. It appears the civilian wing will be run by a prison service official, but the military commander will have the final say.

That will be Mr Howard's second boot camp. The first, with no military connections, opens this summer at Thorncross, Cheshire. Colchester is expected to take its first civilian inmates in September. Military staff have already received training at the Prison Service College in Rugby.

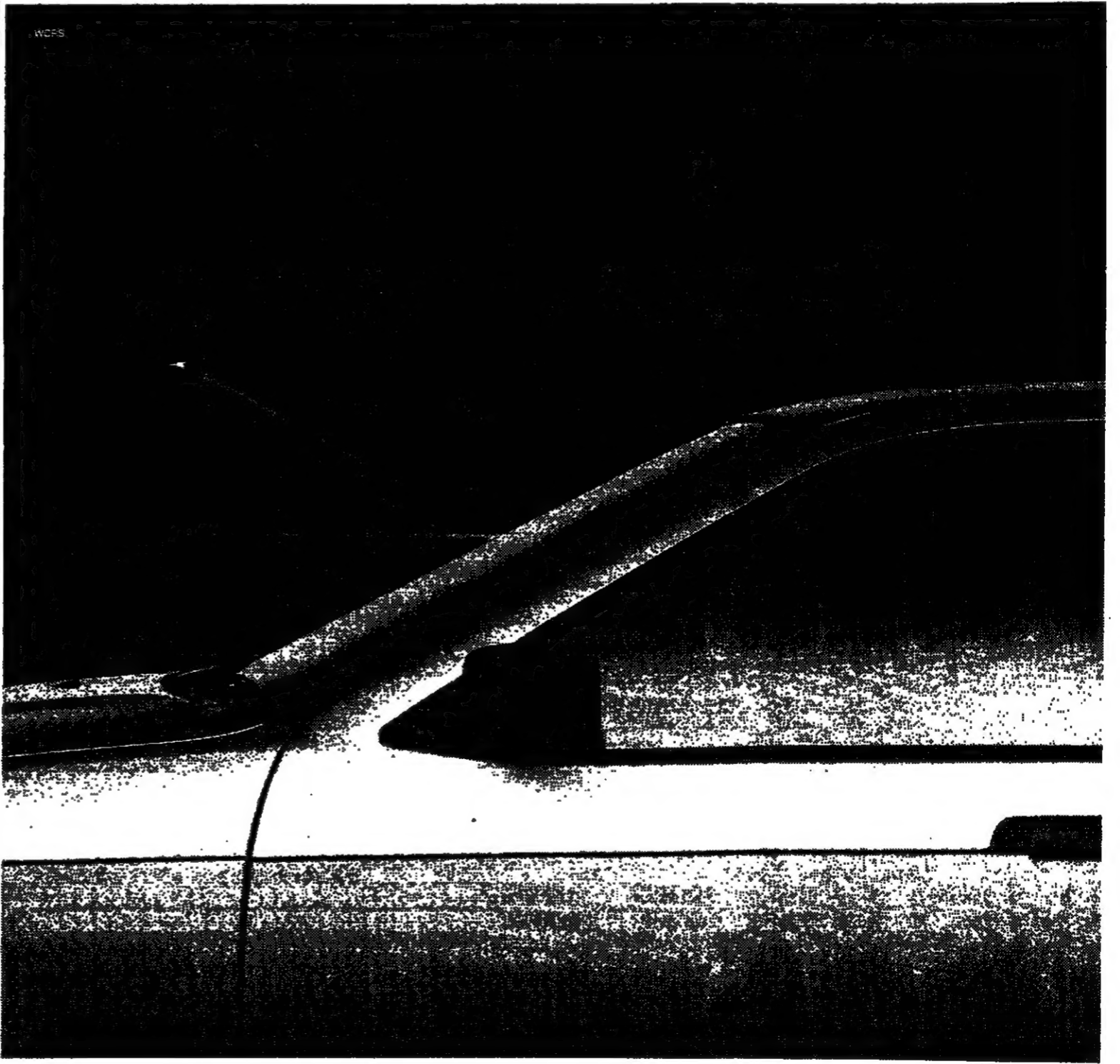
It is understood that detailed work is under way on

the regime that will face the persistent teenage offenders sent there. It will be austere, with an emphasis on drill, and with few privileges.

Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers said: "The clear signal that the army and not the Prison Service is to manage the military camp, with its emphasis on drill and polished boots, means that short, sharp, shock is back with a vengeance."

One of the police officers called in even brought me one of his crazy letters and told me 'He just wants to talk things out with you', she says. 'I couldn't believe my ears. I've become a virtual prisoner in my own home.' Maggie O'Kane

Q2 page 10



THANKS TO IDS THERE ARE NO FLIES ON THIS BMW.

At BMW we have long believed that our cars should be as attractive as possible.

Producing our latest innovation, however, has led us to something completely repellent.

Recently introduced across the whole BMW range, it's called the Insect Deflector Screen or IDS for short.

It has taken five years to perfect and is the brainchild of scientists at our Research and Development Centre in Munich. Leading them was our head of windscreens technology, Dr Jürgen Alfallert.

First of all, they studied the way different species of insects would collide with the surface of an ordinary BMW windscreen. Once they had sufficient data they created a clear rubber solution with just the right degree of elasticity.

Only then did they apply this solution, a composite of styrene, butadiene and isoprene, over the entire windscreen. Less than 0.01 millimetre thick, it is completely invisible to the naked eye.

So successful has it proved that, even at high speeds, insects literally bounce off.

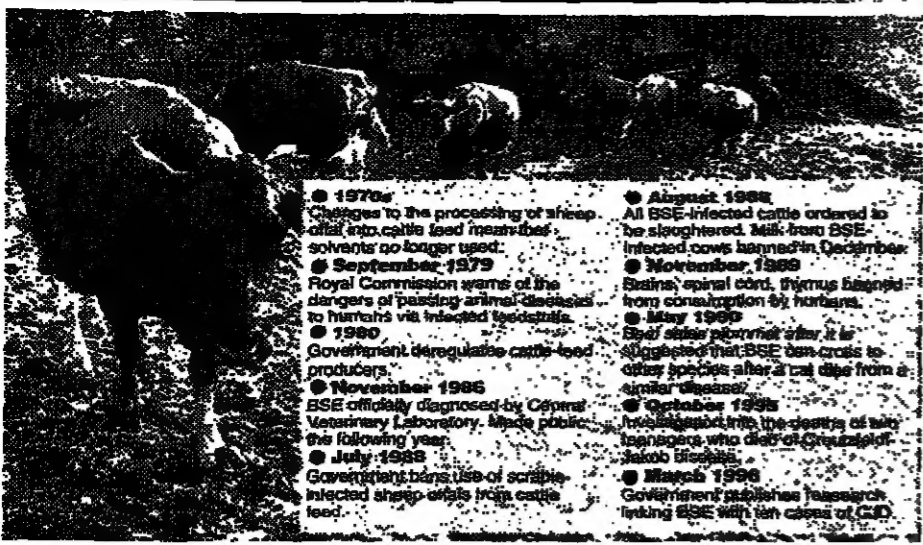
Development work has already begun on adapting the IDS system for use on BMW headlights.

And front number plates will also be available with this feature in the near too distant future.

You can find out more about IDS by filling in the coupon, making a bee-line for your nearest BMW dealer or by visiting <http://www.bmw.co.uk>.

Post to R. Virell, BMW Information Service, P.O. Box 181, Croydon CR9 1QB. I find this stuff to my windscreen. I find this stuff to my windscreen. I find this stuff to my windscreen. I find this stuff to my windscreen. I find this stuff to my windscreen.

The BSE trail



- 1976: Changes to the processing of sheep and cattle carcasses lead to the spread of BSE.
- September 1979: Royal Commission starts the process of tracing the disease to humans via infected tissues.
- 1980: Government deregulates cattle-food products.
- November 1986: BSE officially diagnosed by Central Veterinary Laboratory. Made public the following year.
- July 1988: Government bans use of scrapie-infected sheep-wool in textiles.
- August 1988: All BSE-infected cattle ordered to be slaughtered. Milk from BSE-infected cows banned in Denmark.
- November 1989: Britain's animal food, Thomas Mann, is found to have contaminated its products with BSE.
- January 1991: First case of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is reported. It is suggested that BSE can cross to other species, albeit at a low level.
- October 1991: Home Secretary, Douglas Hogg, announces that the country's animal by-products will be destroyed.
- March 1994: Government introduces legislation to ban BSE in the country.

# Brain disease 'predated BSE'

Owen Bowcott on scientist's findings in undiagnosed cases

THE reported "new" strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease identified by government researchers existed long before the emergence of BSE in cattle, according to a leading research scientist.

The claims by Gareth Roberts, a neuropathologist, have come as the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed it is contemplating banning the use of blood from abattoirs as a fertiliser on farm land for fear that the disease could enter water supplies.

Dr Roberts reviewed stored samples of brain tissue dating back over the past 30 years. He is understood to have found undiagnosed CJD cases many of which exhibit fresh forms, or even mutations, of the condition which gradually destroys the brain.

Some of them, according to the *New Scientist* magazine, show similar patterns of deterioration as the CJD strain identified in 10 victims of the government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee for SmithKline Beecham but could not be contacted yesterday. The Department of Health could not comment on his work. The cases grouped together by SEAC all involved people under the age of 42, symptoms which persisted long before death and a common pattern of damage to brain tissue.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food confirmed it was considering whether to add blood to the list of animal waste which should be destroyed rather than recycled through the farming industry. "It's out for consultation and we are taking it forward quickly," claims from Harash Nar-



Seven-month-old Masie Stubbs, who was among 1,000 villagers at Bradworthy, near Barnstaple, Devon, protesting at the EU ban on beef yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TONY FREEMAN

no attempt to remove justified public health controls.

"Some of the regulations have completely different licensing requirements for the handling of minute meat as compared with meat pies. There was an extensive public consultation exercise last summer. We are not trying to relax safety measures."

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, has attacked the quantity of EU rules which, he claims, impose excessive restrictions on food companies.

"The alarm over food safety has also affected pigs. It was revealed yesterday. Fears that the level of tuberculosis infection in pork meat may be rising has forced Meat Hygiene Service inspectors to circulate warnings.

This form of TB, known as Microbacterium Avium Complex and thought to originate in bird droppings, is passed to pigs through peat used as a bedding agent in their feed.

"We are not aware of any increase," a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said. "It can be identified by characteristic lesions and the carcasses, or the areas affected, destroyed before they pass into the food chain."

News in brief

## Island cancer deaths studied

THE Government yesterday offered expert help to analyse cancer deaths on a Scottish island to see if they could be linked with fall-out from the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion in 1986. Scotland's chief medical officer, Robert Kendall, said it was unlikely Chernobyl was responsible for a spate of cancer cases at Benbecula in the Western Isles.

The Scottish Office offer came after local GP Francis Tierney noted 19 new cancers had been reported since 1994, when he would have expected six.

## Four charged over kidnap

FOUR people are due to appear in court today following the alleged three-day kidnap and torture of a 27-year-old woman. The four, including a husband and wife and the husband's brother, are being held in custody and will appear at Horseferry Road magistrates' court.

Scotland Yard said the kidnap victim was freed from an address in London at about 10pm on Friday after an investigation by its organised crime group. Money, drugs and firearms were found.

Barclay George Walters, 57, of Harlesden, north-west London, was charged with kidnaping, false imprisonment and firearms offences; Anurich Sharma, 31, and his brother Sanjeev Sharma, 27, both of Hounslow, west London, were charged with kidnap and false imprisonment; Sanjeev Sharma's wife Dipty, 25, was charged with false imprisonment. A fifth suspect, a 23-year-old woman student, was released on bail until April 13.

— Angela Johnson

## Child agency help limited

THE Child Support Agency may be no help to low-income lone mothers, according to a study published to coincide with the agency's third anniversary today. Based on interviews last year with 53 lone mothers, the study says many on income support saw nothing of any maintenance collected from former partners; those listed just above income support level by maintenance lost valuable linked benefits, and former partners often reacted by stopping informal help with children's clothing, birthdays and payment for school trips.

David Brindle

## Travel shops challenge

UP TO 50 travel shops may be established in large towns and cities if an experiment in taking on the overseas package trade is a success. The first UK Holiday Shop opened in Northampton last month and another will follow soon in Chester in an attempt to create a brand image that rivals big travel agency chains.

Forty-two holiday operators are already backing the pilot scheme, part of a wider campaign by the English Tourist Board to revitalise the service offered by 550 tourist information centres, most run by local authorities.

— James Melville

## Prescription cost attacked

SOME asthma sufferers are not taking vital drugs because they cannot afford the soaring cost of prescriptions and are not aware of a government scheme to cut their cost, a charity warned yesterday. As prescription charges increased by over 25p an item to £5.50, the National Asthma Campaign called for an overhaul of the Government's season ticket scheme, which cuts the cost of prescriptions.

About 3 million people in the UK are estimated to suffer from asthma, but a survey carried out for the NAC indicates only half the population is aware of the scheme. More than one in 20 who paid for prescriptions could not afford the lump sum payment — £78.40 a year or £26.50 every four months — needed to benefit.

## Lottery rollover

NO ONE scooped last week's National Lottery jackpot, so next week's rollover top prize could be worth as much as £20 million. Thirty-two tickets won £26,858 each for matching five balls plus the bonus ball. The winning numbers were 27, 12, 46, 27, 26, 28. The bonus number was 43.

# 'Safe' does not mean 'zero risk', says scientist

Owen Bowcott

Whitehall and among health and safety officials — has failed to convince millions of consumers eager for absolute assurance that they cannot be poisoned by what they eat.

Talking on the BBC's Breakfast With Frost, Ray Bradley, a member of SEAC, the independent committee advising the Government on BSE, insisted that the risk to humans from beef was so small as to be almost negligible.

On gelatin and meat he said: "The position has been made quite clear that both these substances are safe in the ordinary meaning of the word. That does not mean zero risk, but it means safe."

Dr Bradley's formulation follows the phrasing of the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, who has also de-

clared that British beef is safe to eat. "Nothing is completely without risk," a Department of Health spokeswoman added yesterday. "We would not use the word in an absolute sense."

The semantic — and political — controversy centres on what constitutes "normal" usage. The Consumers' Association supports the absolutist definition. "If there is a risk then it cannot be safe," a spokeswoman said yesterday, "and there is a risk here." The Oxford Dictionary, likewise, defines safe as "out of, or not exposed to, danger".

The mismatch between public perception and scientific orthodoxy is a problem which has exercised the Health and Safety Executive on previous occasions. At the height of the debate over nu-

clear power, researchers even tried to impose a numerical value on what is "safe".

For the nuclear industry it was felt that the public would accept a risk of one in a million that someone might die because of a power plant.

The Government and its critics can agree only that the risk from BSE is unquantifiable because of the state of scientific knowledge.

# Labour spoof over Tory tax record

Michael White Political Editor

THE Labour Party last night stole a march on its rivals by becoming the first party in British political skulduggery to use April Fool's Day as justification for placing a spoof advertisement in the *Times* — purporting to offer taxpayers a £2,030 rebate from John Major's government.

Behind the joke lies a campaign, set to be launched by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown today, designed to warn voters that, after three years of steady increases in central taxation, they can now expect three years when ministers load an estimated £3.5 billion — equal to 2p on income tax — on to local council tax and unified business rates.

The full-page advertisement announces an eye-catching "£2030 Tax Refund" in large letters before explaining "by way of apology the Conservative Party has decided to offer British voters their money back" after 22 tax increases

since the 1993 election. Labour's ad — purporting to be financed by "former Conservatives who support the Labour Party" — urges voters to phone Conservative Central Office or "post this coupon" to get a rebate cheque.

"We are truly sorry for all the hardship we have caused," Conservatives are supposed to be admitting.

Yesterday the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, was in no mood of contrition as he defended the Government's record, "tough but very compassionate" towards vulnerable groups, including the elderly, sick and unemployed. He cited the Chancellor's budget claim that average families will be £9 a week better off in the coming year.

Labour officials had always attacked that figure as misleading and admit that their own £2,030 is open to similar objections in that it exaggerates the true position. Labour's usual charge is that taxes have gone up by around £800 for average families since 1992.

# Morris warns Blair over conference's policy sovereignty

Michael White

THE TRANSPORT workers' leader, Bill Morris, yesterday warned Tony Blair that the Labour conference will remain sovereign over policy-making despite plans to stage a pre-manifesto ballot among all 350,000 members.

Hinting that the process might not end up as a formal ballot, Mr Morris told GMTV's Sunday Programme: "We must wait and see. It's very early days yet. A lot of discus-

sion will take place before party conference. But at the end of the day, the party conference is the sovereign body."

The Transport & General Workers' Union is campaigning for a commitment to a minimum wage of £4 an hour, something the Labour leadership is determined not to concede before it gains office, despite what Mr Morris called the absolute despair and poverty of people now working for as little as £1.20.

Mr Blair is keen to avoid excessive expectations and traditional charges of betrayal if Labour wins next year. He spoke of leaders having to "put the national interest before any sectional interest of your own party" even as he dismissed critics of his modernisation drive as "smaller than people think."

Mr Morris's remarks prompted reassurances from Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, that the ballot concept floated by Mr Blair at last week's NEC meeting was not intended to "bypass or undermine existing constitutional procedures, as some leftwing critics among MPs and the unions fear."


On the same programme, Mr Cook stressed that "when we get to that (party) referendum we will already have gone to conference and got the full approval of conference for the document."

The ballot — which Mr Morris himself had called "a refreshing development in British politics" — was designed to persuade supporters to "campaign for this manifesto, to sell it at the general



The broadcasts invariably begin with the rape or car crash or shooting of the day. Even small towns may suffer at least one of these mishaps per day.

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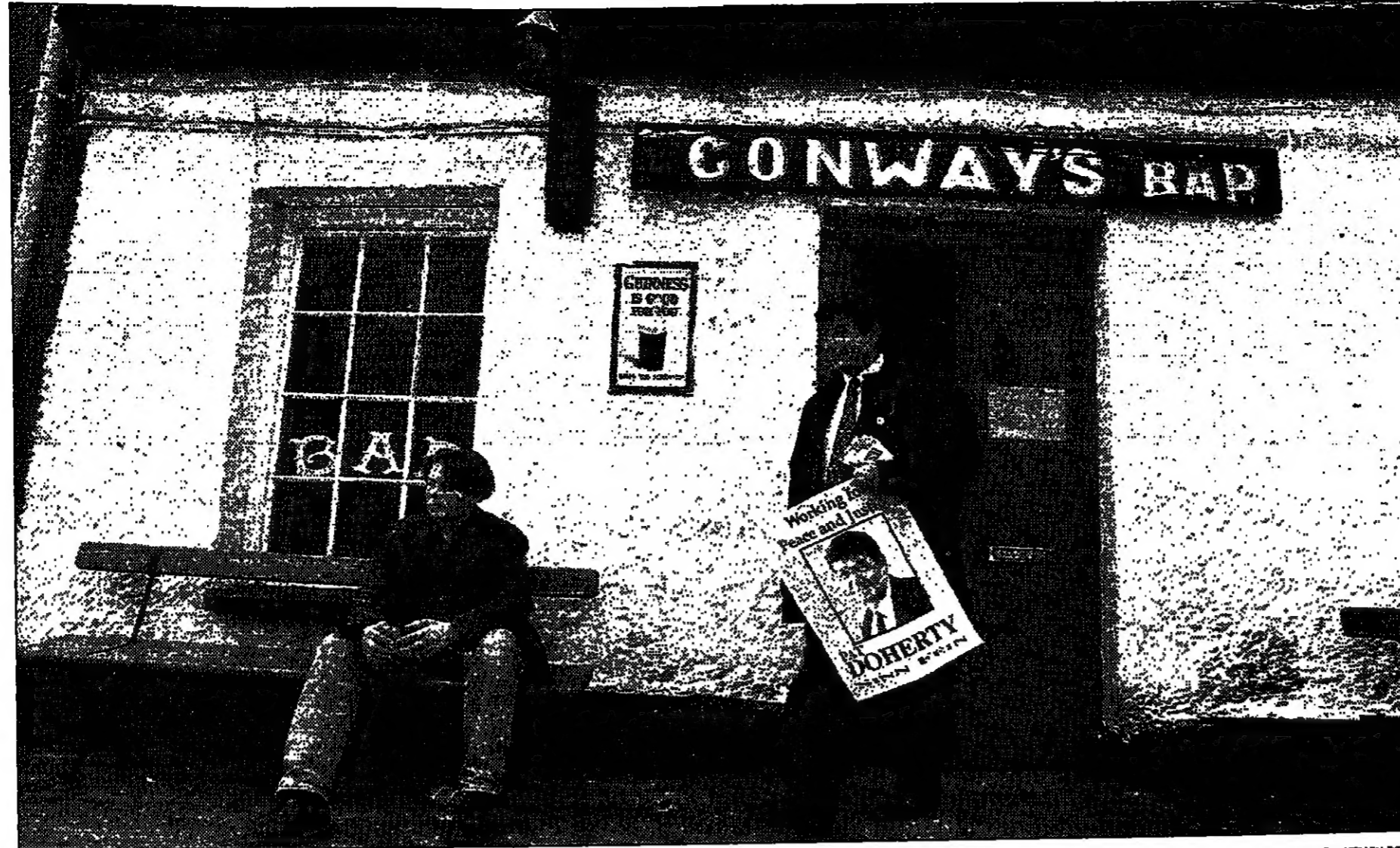
\*THE BANK MAY DECLINE ANY APPLICATION. CREDIT FACILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION AND NOT AVAILABLE TO ALL CUSTOMERS. MUST USE THE CARD AT LEAST 10 TIMES PER YEAR. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. CO-OPERATIVE BANK VISA CARDS ARE AT 2% PAUSE. \*TYPICAL EXAMPLE. BASED ON A TRANSFER BALANCE OF £1000. THE BALANCE IS PAID IN FULL OVER A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS AND PAYMENTS ARE MADE 25 DAYS AFTER STATEMENT DATE. BARCLAYS BANK VISA CARD @ 22.6% APR WOULD COST £675. NATWEST BANK CARD @ 21.6% APR WOULD COST £714. CO-OPERATIVE BANK BALANCE TRANSFER AT 12.6% APR WOULD COST £418. ALL RATES CORRECT AS AT 14.1.96.

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صدا من الامم

# Sinn Fein's peace test in Donegal

### David Sharrock on by-election dilemma



Irish hospitality... Sinn Fein vice-president Pat Doherty canvassing in Ramelton where he repeatedly came up against the ceasefire issue. PHOTOGRAPH BY KELVIN BOYES

The timing could not be worse. Sinn Fein tomorrow faces its first electoral test since the ending of the IRA ceasefire when it fields a strong candidate, party vice-president Pat Doherty, in an important by-election in the Irish Republic.

But as Mr Doherty's team canvassed north-east Donegal this weekend they knew that the IRA's decision to end its ceasefire is weighing heavily on the minds of the voters. It is something of a Catch 22 situation. In order to demonstrate to militant republicans that the "unarmed strategy" is the right path to take, Sinn Fein must perform well at the polls. But in order to do that, the IRA's campaign of violence must be an ever-receding memory.

The by-election takes place within the historic province of Ulster - Unionists sacrificed the three counties of Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan in order to create a perpetual majority - and is being closely scrutinised for indications as to how Sinn Fein might do in the May 30 Northern Ireland elections, if they take part. Since Sinn Fein ended its abstentionist policy in 1986 and recognised the legitimacy of the Dublin parliament, the party has harboured hopes of winning a seat in the border county of Donegal, where republicanism has firm roots.

## Road activists plan busy summer

### Veteran campaigners moving to other sites after 'moral victory'

NEWBURY activists buoyed by the momentum generated by the anti-bypass campaign are planning a summer of similar actions. As people living in the last protest camps along the route are evicted this week, veteran campaigners have already started moving to other sites around the country. In the three months since clearance work started to the west of the Berkshire town, thousands of people have travelled there to support the hundreds of protesters living in benders and treehouses. It turned into the largest

car culture and where it's going. Everyone's read about how nature is getting trashed. "Before the campaign we were hated. Now surveys show we have the support of the majority of the population." He added that the cost to police and the contractors was so large that it might discourage road projects. The unprecedented interest that Newbury created has also inspired people to get involved in similar actions dealing with wider issues all around the country. The highest-profile action is planned for the beginning of May when The Land is Ours campaign will "reclaim" a derelict site near central London and turn it into a sustainable village and farm. Spokesman George Monbiot said: "After Newbury people are much more aware of their power to

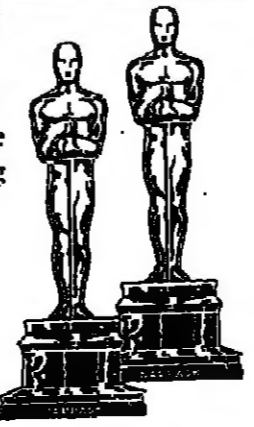
### Where next?

- 1 London: "Urban Land Guerrilla" at an unspecified central London location in May. Activists will take over a large department store.
2 Farnham: AODMAs near Farnham between Exeter and London. Nicknamed "The University of Road Protesters" as people were living there months before they moved to Newbury.
3 Major roads: Campaigners will target major roads across the country.
4 Newbury: The Highways Agency will be asked to fund a 400-acre woodland project.
5 Newbury: A 400-acre woodland project.
6 Newbury: A 400-acre woodland project.



# Oscar, Oscar, Bravo!

The two Oscars won by BBC Television programmes on March 25 represent the highest possible international recognition for excellence. We're proud to be associated with such talents as Nick Park - creator of Wallace and Gromit - and documentary maker Jon Blair. And to celebrate their achievements, BBC viewers can see both these Academy Award-winning films again this weekend.



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From his home in exile, the agent punished for exposing America's dirty tricks tries to get even

# The trials of Barbara Bush

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

**B**EFORE Hillary and Nancy there was Barbara. She was never accused of financial skulduggery — unlike her successor. She was never ridiculed for leading matters of national policy in the hands of an assassin — unlike her predecessor. She was always the sister of presidential wives.

first round of a fight between an ex-CIA whistleblower and a woman once regarded as America's national grandma. At issue are not only millions of dollars and the reputation of a presidential family, but the conduct of the American secret state in the darkest days of the cold war.

cover had been blown, along with many others, by a traitorous, tell-all book written by former CIA agent Philip Agee. Mrs Bush wrote: "A quick glance at Mr Agee's 1978 book inside the Company reveals a detailed diary of CIA antics and dirty tricks in Latin America in the 1960s."

blamed Mr Agee for the death of Welch, calling him a "reckless ideologue... who wantonly sacrificed the lives of intelligence officers". Mr Agee says: "For 20 years now he's tried to say I'm responsible. He knows perfectly well that it's a lie."

were published in Athens News, a left-wing English language weekly. He was killed a month later. The Agee team says even Welch knew his cover had been blown. He had been warned to leave his home — widely known as the residence of the CIA station chief.

biography. In this version, the reference to Mr Agee has gone and the death of the "gentle Greek scholar" is blamed on his exposure in Counter Spy. According to Mr Agee's lawyers, the change proves that Mrs Bush knows she falsely defamed their client.

## Oil sale raises a cry of foul

Phil Osoin in Mexico City

**A** COMBINATION of a pearl necklace and Mexican sovereignty at the heart of an increasingly acrimonious dispute has brought thousands of demonstrators on to the streets and heightened the cry of "gringo domination".

necklace she had planned to leave her daughter in her will. "I feel that if we don't do something now for our country," Ms Loza says, "we'll never do it. Later on, perhaps it will be too late."

Until recently school textbooks gave prominence to heroic photographs of peasants queuing up to donate chickens and turkeys to a fund established by Mr Cárdenas to pay the compensation bill.

Some experts remain unconvinced, however. Between 1966 and 1992, they point out, the government redefined as "secondary" 43 of the 50 petrochemical products originally regarded as "basic".

But the nationalist, mainly leftwing opposition politicians but also members of Mr Zedillo's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the PRI-affiliated oil workers' union, accuse the government of planning a backdoor privatisation of the industry, in violation of the constitution.

John Saxe-Fernández, a specialist in oil and national security issues at Unam University in Mexico City, says the petrochemical plan could be a potentially "mortal blow" to the state oil company Pemex.



Surin Sirinon, leader of a group fighting land evictions, threatened to set himself alight during a protest against the Thai government. Thousands of farmers and workers have vowed to continue the anti-government rallies this week

## Freedom statue stirs bad memories

David Beresford in Johannesburg reports on the controversy surrounding Nelson Mandela's plans for a national monument

**P**RESIDENT Nelson Mandela's readiness to renounce the "old" South Africa with the new heights in his plans to build a controversial national monument. It will include a 69ft "freedom" statue of Mandela's hand breaking through prison bars. The cost is estimated at £10 million.

lightners were eventually banned as a health hazard after a campaign by South African doctors. Danie de Jager, a sculptor identified with apartheid, has been commissioned to design the monument, on a site near Pretoria. His works include a large head of J.G. Strijdom, considered to have been one of the most racist of South Africa's prime ministers, and a statue for the grave of Hendrick Verwoerd, the "architect of apartheid".

But there are doubts whether the "beacon of freedom" will see the light of day. Mr Mandela's office said the project was "on hold" while it decided on an "appropriate way" of dealing with it.

But the minutes of an "interim committee" meeting last autumn show that Mr Mandela had asked the Kroks "to provide bridging finance" and had "indicated that the government was backing the project financially".

**His DNA sample carries traces of virtually every religious creed that has existed since the dawn of time.**  
The Devil

G2 page 4

### informative:

With effect from 1 May 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate		
(for mortgages taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)		
	From	To
All loan amounts	6.95% pa	6.69% pa
Equity Release Loan		
(for loans taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)		
If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:		
	From	To
All loan amounts	6.95% pa	6.69% pa
If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:		
All loan amounts	8.95% pa	8.69% pa

first direct

## Kashmiri separatists count cost of police attack on shrine

**S**uzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

**K**ASHMIRIS maintained a sullen silence yesterday as the full horror of the killing of more than 20 militants by security forces at the valley's holiest shrine began to sink in.

though two appeared to be teenagers. Three armed women and two children were given safe passage out of the area before the shooting began.

The weekend killings seem likely to strengthen condemnation of India's human rights record in the valley at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, now meeting in Geneva.

But international criticism must be weighed against New Delhi's determination to hit hard at the militants before the general election, which begins on April 27.

## News in brief

### Bangladesh military back caretaker PM

**B**ANGLADESHI military chiefs pledged full support yesterday to the caretaker head of government, Habibur Rahman, who has replaced the prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, in the run-up to elections.

### Kurds 'declare war'

**G**ERMAN politicians have denounced a Kurdish threat of attacks in Germany and against German tourists in Turkey as a "declaration of war".

### Abacha sacks commanders

**T**HE Nigerian military ruler, General Sani Abacha, has sacked his army and air force chiefs, a surprise move which further shakes the unstable West African country.

### Tension rises in Lebanon

**S**OUTH LEBANON was in a state of high alarm yesterday as Israeli warplanes circled over towns and villages and the Islamist guerrillas of Hizbullah threatened to renew their rocket attacks on northern Israel.

### Ukraine killer hunted

**A** MASS murderer who has terrorised Ukraine for three months and killed 39 people has been identified by investigators as Sergei "Baby" Ignatenko, an ex-convict from the Donetsk region.

### Base raises island passions



Outrage... Japanese demonstrate yesterday against the renewal of US bases in Okinawa, where a girl was raped by three servicemen

### Cambodian reports conflict

**T**HREE Scotland Yard officers have arrived in the north-western Cambodian town of Siem Reap to advise on efforts to secure the release of the British mines-clearance specialist Christopher Howes, abducted last week by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

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سحران الاصل

# Russia calls a truce in Chechnia



Little fighters... Chechen boys play war games with toy guns in the ruins of a destroyed building in the ravaged capital, Grozny

PHOTOGRAPH: OLEG NIKSHIN

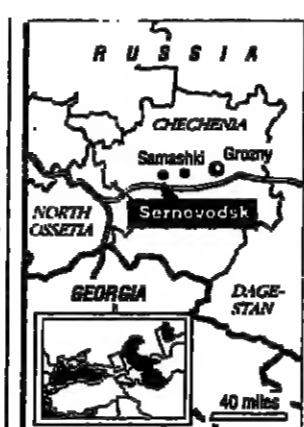
## 'Why not just finish us off?'

### Houses are burned and bodies lie on the streets, Lee Hockstader writes from Semovodsk

**T**HEIR faces blank, their eyes on their feet, the refugees from the ruined villages near here shuffled silently past a Russian military checkpoint. None had much to say to the camouflaged soldiers who had burned their houses, killed their livestock and left their villages strewn with their neighbours' corpses. Suddenly, a middle-aged woman turned on the Russian troops. "This is already the third time you've done this to us," she screamed. "Why don't you just get it over with and finish us off."

As Russian troops press a spring offensive against rebels in Chechnia, they are killing civilians at a rate that has stunned relief workers and human rights groups — but has been largely ignored by the Western governments. In the past three weeks Russian artillery and helicopter gunships have pounded Chechnia towns and villages while Russian troops have carried out unprovoked killings, arson attacks and indiscriminate arrests, the aid workers and human rights groups say.

troops killed more than 100 civilians a year ago. In the latest places destroyed — west, east and south of Grozny, the Chechen capital — hundreds of civilians are reported to have died this month. Aid workers and even officials of the Moscow-installed Chechen government say Russian troops are out of control. "It's the worst I have ever seen, and I've seen a lot," said Peter Rohrbach of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who has worked in Croatia, Somalia and other war zones. "I was shocked."



out of Samashki. Before the attack, the women had been granted permission by troops to walk down the road that was shelled. At least six were wounded. "The soldiers who did it were drunk, totally trashed," said Zaina Zayeva, one of the women. "Afterward, an officer

came up to them and asked the drunk kid: 'What the hell are you doing? These are women.'" Boris Kaniev, mayor of Semovodsk, another town in western Chechnia, told Amnesty International that civilians were killed by Russian soldiers when they entered the town after several days of shelling. He saw them seize a woman and take her to a nearby house, where her body was later found. In an incident reported by the Moscow Times, Russian troops ordered 18 women and children in Samashki to line up against a wall, then tossed grenades at them, killing four women and wounding others. Troops barred access to Samashki and nearby Semovodsk to outsiders and foreigners, including journalists and aid workers, so it was difficult to corroborate the reports.

Independent observers said that before the Russians began attacking the Chechen towns and villages, they opened a corridor for civilians to flee their homes — but only for a couple of hours. Relief workers have reported that scores of Chechen men and boys, some only 10, some as old as 65, have been arrested and taken away. Between 100 and 200 men were arrested in Samashki and dozens more in Semovodsk. Nearly all the refugees on the road last week were women. The men are believed to have been taken by the Russians to detention centres known as "filtration camps", in which there had been widespread reports of torture. Red Cross and other officials said recent requests to visit the camps had been rejected. — Washington Post

**P**RESIDENT Boris Yeltsin ordered a unilateral ceasefire in Chechnia last night and offered to start negotiations with the rebel Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev. But Russian forces continued their controversial long-range bombing of rebel villages up to the ceasefire at midnight last night and the commander in chief of Russian forces, Colonel-General Tikhomirov, said the president's declaration of peace "did not mean a stopping of all operations". Mr Yeltsin also revealed that any talks with Mr Dudayev — who is still the subject of a Russian arrest warrant — would be through a third party. "The main condition under which negotiations on the status of Chechnia could be started is normalising the situation in the republic and establishing peace, calm and stability there," said Mr Yeltsin in a nationwide address. "For the sake of that we are ready to enter into negotiations, through intermediaries, with Dudayev's side." But with the Russian foreign minister, Evgeny Primakov recently, ruling out independence for Chechnia, no new political breakthrough is expected even if talks do come about. Most of the political measures announced by Mr Yeltsin yesterday were aimed at fostering a Chechen-to-Chechen dialogue. "These included the idea of convening a peace forum of Chechen elders and representatives to prepare for an election of a new parliament backed, eventually, by a devolution treaty. Such a scenario, which is similar to Russia's arrange-

## Moscow threat to arms pact

**R**ussia's ambition to compete with the West in the sale of sensitive weapons and technology could undermine this week's launch of a key mechanism for monitoring exports. Moscow's attitude will be on the minds of diplomats from 28 countries meeting in Vienna tomorrow for the first plenary session of the fledgling Wassenaar Arrangement, successor to the old Coordinating Committee on Export Controls (Cocoom). But many other problems abound. The Wassenaar Arrangement, named after the diplomatic quarter of The Hague where it was set up last December, is intended to exchange information about the transfer of "sensitive dual-use goods and technologies" including machine tools, computers and cipher equipment. Controversy has dogged it from the start, including criticism of its blanket ban on sales to Iran, Iraq, Libya and North Korea, and complaints that Western countries will use the guidelines to maintain their dominant role in the world's arms markets. Britain says it is committed to ensuring transparency in arms transfers and enhancing world stability, but also "to ensure a level playing field for British industry". Cocoom was wound up in 1994. The need for a new version after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact was undermined by Iraq's ability to acquire sophisticated weapons and technologies before the Gulf war. Wassenaar, unlike Cocoom, deals with conventional weapons and dual-use technology, and this has led to disputes with Japan and Switzerland, two of the largest producers of dual-use goods, are obliged to reveal sales information to non-producers and are insisting that the main arms exporters — the US, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — should follow suit. There are fears about Russia's ability to acquire sophisticated weapons and technologies before the Gulf war. Wassenaar, unlike Cocoom, deals with conventional weapons and dual-use technology, and this has led to disputes with Japan and Switzerland, two of the largest producers of dual-use goods, are obliged to reveal sales information to non-producers and are insisting that the main arms exporters — the US, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — should follow suit. There are fears about Russia's ability to acquire sophisticated weapons and technologies before the Gulf war. Wassenaar, unlike Cocoom, deals with conventional weapons and dual-use technology, and this has led to disputes with Japan and Switzerland, two of the largest producers of dual-use goods, are obliged to reveal sales information to non-producers and are insisting that the main arms exporters — the US, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — should follow suit.

## Giscard critic elected leader in his place

**D**ELIVERING a humiliated rebuttal to former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the Union for French Democracy (UDF) chose François Léotard, his arch-critic and former defence minister, as its new chairman yesterday. Mr Giscard, who founded the multi-party group 18 years ago to counter domination of the right by the Gaullist RPR, retired as UDF leader last week having failed to make it France's biggest political force. His last-minute public appeal in favour of Alain Madelin, the former finance minister, rallied less than a third of the party at a Lyon congress. Mr Giscard, aged 70, head of state from 1974 until he was beaten in 1981 by the Socialist leader François Mitterrand, was visibly shaken by the fact that 57 per cent of UDF delegates backed Mr Léotard, aged 54, who spent years claiming that Mr Giscard was too old to lead the country's second most powerful right-wing force. Mr Giscard's rearguard fight for Mr Madelin has confirmed a deep rift in the UDF, which has 12 ministers in government and controls the senate, most regional councils and some big cities. In a voice broken by emotion, Mr Giscard implied that Mr Léotard, chairman of the UDF's biggest component, the Republican Party, was responsible for "chronic divisions". Mr Madelin, aged 50, who received 30 per cent of the vote, was credited with being a unifying force who could prepare the ground for the 1996 general elections. But the wrangling at the congress has raised doubts whether the UDF will be able to continue what was its strong European mission under Mr Giscard while coping with a damaging internal struggle. Mr Léotard, who lost his cabinet job last May after sup-

## Dutch told to tighten drug laws

**A**QUARTER century of tolerating soft drugs is under threat in the Netherlands as Germany and France step up pressure on the Dutch government to fall into line with their anti-drugs policies. Manfred Kanther, the German interior minister, joined the chorus of French condemnation of Dutch policy at the weekend while the Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, said in the Netherlands that the Hague would not be able to continue with its liberal position. The Franco-German campaign comes a year after the Schengen accord opened borders between France, Germany and the Benelux states in an ostentatious move aimed at forcing the Dutch to fall into line. President Jacques Chirac closed France's borders with the Benelux states last week to combat the alleged drugs menace. He described Dutch policy as a "scandal", and a French parliamentary report by Mr Chirac's party demanded a "rational" discussion with them on the drug issue. But the government has nonetheless responded to the pressure by introducing a bill to curb cannabis sales and reduce the amount that may be held without fear of seizure. Germany is the strongest

advocate of the open-border policy which has made the city a mecca for European youth. The co-ordinating committee of the possession and use of soft drugs is proscribed, but the authorities turn a blind eye, as they also do to possession of small amounts of hard drugs. There are around 1,000 coffee shops in Amsterdam trading in hard drugs, valued at about a million people a year. Mr Chirac wants them all closed. The bill limits the number to 1,000 nationally. The government resents the pressure from its neighbours and has produced statistics to show that its drug policies work better than those in France and Germany. It has convinced some five of Germany's 16 states are backing the Dutch, urging Mr Kok to continue his pragmatic and humane" drugs policies.

## Last hurrah for Operation Comfort

**Chris Nuttall reports from Incirlik**  
airbase on a forgotten Western mission to protect the Kurds of Northern Iraq

**W**ESTERN allies protecting the Kurds of Northern Iraq from Saddam Hussein are facing eviction from Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey. The Ankara parliament renewed the mandate for the mission last week for what could be the last time. Operation Provide Comfort — increasingly controversial inside Turkey, increasingly forgotten outside — was gradually extended by MPs until June after Mesut Yilmaz, the prime minister, promised it would not continue past then in its present form. Instead of having to pack up and leave this morning, the 1,500 British, American and French taskforce members are now planning joint celebrations with their hosts for the fifth anniversary of the mission on Friday. The Turks are organising a backgammon tournament; the French a football match; and the Americans

and British are planning the latest battle for their Ryder Mug on the mine-hole golf course laid out among the runways. There will be barbecues and tugs of war, and little thought spared for the Iraqi leader who brought them together. But it could be the last hurrah. Turkish politicians say the security zone established by Operation Provide Comfort has provided a safe haven for the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and allowed the setting up of a de facto Kurdish state by its Iraqi counterparts. Turkey's pro-Islamic Welfare Party is now the largest party in parliament and favours closer ties with Baghdad and the rest of the Muslim world. The uncertain future for the mission is reflected in the accommodation at Incirlik, just outside the city of Adana. Five years on, most of the multinational force is still living in tents. But the dirt floors have been replaced by concrete, there are wooden partitions, and air-conditioning has been installed. A chain of "Morale Tents" provides a library, a wide-screen television auditorium, banks of video games, a travel agency, shop, surgery, fully-equipped gymnasium and what the Combined Task Force chaplain calls his "canvas cathedral". Last weekend an early warning plane beamed back information by satellite on whether the no-fly zone established above the 36th Parallel was being breached by President Saddam. The planes were soon back due to bad weather. "Usually it's clear and we come back with good results," said Wing Commander Rick Cobelli, the pilot of one of the Tornados on reconnaissance. "There's a lot of Iraqi military equipment to be seen, but most of it is static." President Saddam has positioned his fifth army above the 36th parallel, but none of his 300 warplanes has challenged the no-fly

### News in brief

- Go-between in ranch siege**  
THE battle of wits between the US government and a cell of heavily-armed extremist fugitives intensified yesterday, as a far-right folk hero offered to mediate. *Jonathan Freedland in Washington writes.*
- Kinkel warns on Bosnia aid**  
The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said yesterday that German and possibly European aid for post-war reconstruction would be withheld if the last prisoners of war in former Yugoslavia were not freed by midnight. Mr Kinkel was reiterating the position of the five big power sponsors of Dayton — the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia — who called on the warring parties to honour the peace accord. — Reuter.
- Author silenced**  
Chinese police prevented the American author Amy Tan from speaking at a charity event in Beijing, apparently because of its cause — Chinese orphans — organisers said yesterday. — AP.







Tom Wakefield

# Way out of the ordinary

SINCE he was so clearly a born writer, it surprised many people that he was in his 40th year that Tom Wakefield, who has died aged 61, published his first book — his non-fiction *He's Much Better. He Can Sneeze* (1974), raised three years later as *Special School*. But if he was a born writer, he was also a born teacher, at once infinitely patient, sympathetic and understanding when dealing with the disabled children in his care, first at the Franklin and Roosevelt School in Miss Cottage and then at Dinsview School in Hackney.

When he gave up this vocation (it is always a vacation, not a job, to him) for his writing, was typical of him, always tenacious and loyal in his friendships, that he should have continued to see to his former colleagues even though their lives were totally remote from the ordinary world which he had entered.

Clearly, he might well have been a third vociferator. At Rugeley Grammar School, Staffordshire, this girl, whose father was a girl, and whose mother supplied the meagre family funds by going out to charitable work, had her headmaster, the formidable Colonel Hutchinson, died at the idea and told her that he should opt for

teaching. Wakefield, so obstinate in his later life, surprisingly gave in and took a special education diploma at the Trent Park teacher training college in North London.

However, his skills as an actor were not wasted. Frequently he would say that a successful teacher was always, in part, also an actor, and when he read from his novels, it was as actor, as much as writer, that he would ignite his audience. There was something theatrical, too, in the extraordinary exactness with which, in his books, he would catch the precise rhythms of everyday speech through every stratum of education and class.

Like many other novelists — Beryl Bainbridge and Angus Wilson come to mind — Wakefield's hugely entertaining repertoire of anecdotes often gave the impression that he was already processing the raw material of experience for subsequent use in his novels. Many of these anecdotes concerned his minor father, about whom he wrote with so much love, understanding and gratitude, both in his autobiography of his early years *Forries Child* (1980) and in his novel *Mate* (1983). (The latter, about the 25-year relationship between two homosexual working-class men, terminated only by death, is surely a minor masterpiece.)

My favourite of these stories was of how Wakefield once brought a lover back to his father's house. For lack of a proper bed, the two youths were obliged to share a folding one. So energetic was their love-making that the bed suddenly folded in on itself and the two were trapped. Their shouts for help eventually aroused Wakefield *per se* who, in no way fazed, prized the bed apart and then, still half-asleep, staggered back to his bedroom to lapse once more into unconsciousness.

In all his books, Wakefield shows that his supreme talent, all too rare among modern novelists, is for describing goodness. Often this goodness is found in characters



The disaster investigator Vic Marshall... asked questions which might not have occurred to others

Vic Marshall

# The risk factor

IN 1974 the Nypro plant at Flixborough exploded, killing several workers. It was to Vic Marshall, who has died aged 74, that the Transport and General Workers Union and the scientific union, STMS, came for technical advice. The result was compelling evidence to the subsequent inquiry from Marshall, a world pioneer on chemical hazards.

Later, Marshall was called as an expert witness on the Piper Alpha disaster. In 1979, he assisted the Irish inquiry into the Whiddy Island refinery explosion. And it was his calculations which helped explain Spain's worst tourist tragedy, when 215 campers perished after a 1978 chemical tanker explosion.

Born in Sunderland, Marshall worked in the chemical industry from 1940-69 while devoting many hours to studying for corporate membership of the Institute of Chemical Engineers. Without a first degree, his research work enabled him to earn a masters' degree and then, in 1985, a PhD from Bradford University where he then lectured. His 1975-83 service on the Health and Safety Commission's hazards committee was followed by a string of other advisory posts. He had become the leading British authority on process safety and in his 1985 doctoral thesis — completed after what he called his "first retirement" from Bradford — he defined his contribution to the field as being centred on "the critique of the concept of acceptable risk".

Safety thresholds, he insisted, were a public concern, too important to be left for private industry's unilateral decisions. In 1987, the thesis became *Major Chemical Hazards*, the standard work on the subject.

He retired again at the end of 1988, having maintained a

close association with the University as an honorary visiting fellow at Bradford, first in industrial technology and later in chemical engineering.

As a disaster investigator he was recognised for his capacity to ask questions which might not have occurred to others. His sense of mission meant that no scrap of evidence was unexamined, no element of mystery left remaining, and he went beyond identifying the immediate causes to encompass issues like the safe siting of control centres, offices and residential buildings.

In 1979, his *Disaster at Flixborough* was published and the university textbook, *Fundamentals of Process Safety*, written in collaboration with his colleague, close friend and comrade Stephen Ruhmann, was nearing completion at the time of his death.

Marshall was a vigorous polemicist and Marxist in-

Ryohei Saito

# The bubble bursts

RYOHEI Saito, a controversial businessman and collector of Western art, has died at the age of 79, some weeks after having suffered a stroke. He achieved fame in the west for his 1980 purchases of Vincent Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr Gochet* and Pierre-Auguste Renoir's *Au Moulin de la Galette*, for \$82.5 million and \$78.1 million, record prices for single paintings.

But then won notoriety when he said that he wanted the two paintings put into his coffin — to save his heirs having to pay inheritance tax on the works of art. There was an outcry in Japan, and he later changed his mind. Friends said that his paintings would be donated to art institutes.

But Saito also attracted controversy as a businessman. He took over as president of Daishowa Paper Manufacturing in 1961 on the death of his father, Chichiro, who had founded the company.

He was always known for his aggression, and he built up Daishowa to become Japan's second biggest paper manufacturer. But he also got into trouble and faced questions in parliament over accusations that Daishowa had caused pollution. The oil price rises of the 1970s and recession hurt Daishowa and forced Saito to relinquish control to Sumitomo Bank. But he was back four years later, angered that the bank had some cherished paintings as part of the reconstruction.

The "bubble economy" years of the late 1980s brought Saito his fame. His purchases of works of art also included 1.5 billion yen (now worth \$34 million) for a version of Rodin's *The Thinker*, which he gave to a museum in his native Shizuoka. He sold stock in the company and land in Tokyo to buy paintings and shot to the top of the list of Japanese taxpayers in 1991.

But the bubble years also led him into trouble. He joined people venturing foolishly into property and construction. He also used his family's political connections. His brother was Shizuoka governor and a son is a member of parliament.

Last year Saito was found guilty in the Tokyo district court of conspiring to give an 100 million yen bribe to the Miyagi governor to get preferential treatment in a golf course development in which Daishowa was involved. He was given a three-year suspended sentence.

Saito was ensnared and brought down because of his political ties. The case came to light as part of the 1993 raids on the homes and offices of former political godfather Shin Kanemaru (*Obituary*, March 29), who died last week.

Keynes still has the answers



Tom Wakefield... teacher to story-teller

Christopher Headington

# A friend of Aldeburgh

THE composer, pianist and writer, Christopher Headington, has died in a skiing accident, aged 65.

Born in London, he was educated at Taunton School and the Royal Academy of Music, where in 1949 he won the Leo Bortwick Prize for best instrumentalist. Among his tutors, there was the composer Lennox Berkeley, who described Headington as "my first pupil". Their friendship lasted until Berkeley's death in 1969. Headington was proud that in 1988 he recorded a CD of several of Berkeley's piano works, including the sonata.

Berkeley introduced the 18-year-old Headington to Benjamin Britten, who encouraged the shy, private young man. Headington received one of the first of the English Opera Group's commissions, a concert work, *Qui Habitavit*, and, in 1948, Britten put him forward for a commission from the Revd Walter Hussey, the enlightened incumbent of St Matthew's, Northampton, whose patronage had already engendered Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Henry Moore's *Madonna and Child*, and Graham Sutherland's *Crucifixion*.

Composing and performing were Headington's first loves



Boysish enthusiasm... Christopher Headington

and greatest strengths, though he produced fluent critical writings and was a regular reviewer for the Gramophone magazine for many years. His earliest works show the influence of Berkeley and Britten when he favoured genres of a classical leaning — sonatas, quartets and song-cycles — but he later moved away from his mentors' shadows. He was delighted when his violin concerto was recorded by Xul' Wei in 1991, and only last year, in the course of our final conversation, Christopher told me, with mounting, almost adolescent excitement that there was a plan to record his orchestral song-cycle, *The Healing Fountain*.

Ursula Heathcote Nicholls

# Seeker after peace

URSULA Heathcote Nicholls, who has died aged 75, was one of that determined band of women who made Greenham Common the focal point of the 1980s anti-nuclear movement. A veteran of the Aldermaston marches of an earlier generation, she swapped the comforts of Devon for weekends spent with the opponents of cruise missiles camped at the gates of the Berkshire airbase, accepting imprisonment for her beliefs.

On New Year's Day 1983, in the company of women barely half her age, she scaled the base's barbed-wire fence and was arrested after linking hands with fellow protesters to dance symbolically on top of the missile silos. Sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment at Newbury magistrates court, for refusing to be bound over to keep the peace, she had to go through the indignity of a strip-search in Holloway prison.

Born in Mysore state in southern India where her mining engineer father Francis Heathcote, OBE, was the manager of Kolar Gold Fields, she was separated from her family aged seven and educated in Australia. Both countries exerted an enduring influence on her. It was with a grim irony that the anti-nuclear campaigner learned, on one return to India in the 1980s, that the mineshaft designed by her engineer father was projected to become a spent nuclear waste dump.

The seeds of her pacifism were sown in the early 1950s when her army officer husband was stationed at the Woomera rocket-testing range in South Australia. After reading detailed accounts of the results of the Hiroshima bombing she refused to allow herself or her family to be involved in the testing being carried out at the secretive range.

An interest in progressive education brought Ursula and her four children to England, initially to visit A.S. Neill's Summerhill, but then to Dartington where she finally settled. From 1970 to 1983 she worked as a house mother at Foxhole, the senior school of Dartington Hall. In her retirement she worked as a volunteer at the Women's Refuge in Torbay. An avid letter writer and poetry lover, she corresponded with the American poet May Sarton until the latter's death last year. She is survived by her four children and nine grandchildren.

Advised, 57; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, Professor Emerita, Department of Nursing, Manchester University, 70; Ali MacGraw, actress, 58; William Manchester, US historian, 74; Madeleine May, lawyer, former director, International Bar Association, 58; John Murdoch, director, Court-aud' Institute Galleries, 51; Prof Sir Dimitri Obolensky, Russian and Balkan historian, 76; Marie Patterson, trade unionist, 62; Jane Powell, screen actress, 67; Steve Race, broadcaster, 75; Debbie Reynolds, actress, 64; Bryan Robertson, former director, Whitechapel Gallery, 71; Rosemary Spencer, diplomat, 55; Kathy Stobart, saxophonist, 71; Leonard van Geest, chairman, Littlewoods, 45; Sheila Whitaker, director, London Film Festival, 60; Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP, 52; J.J. Williams, rugby player, 47.

## Birthdays

Anna Coote, deputy director, Institute of Public Policy Research, 65; Cynog Dafis, Plaid Cymru MP, 58; Prof Kay Davies, geneticist, 45; David Gower, cricketer, 38; Sir Nicholas Henderson, diplomat, former British ambassador in Washington, 77; Gale Johnson Houghton, jockey, 55; Anthony Lake, US National Security



Ryohei Saito... who wanted his Van Gogh and Renoir acquisitions buried with him

Geoffrey Gibbs  
Ursula Heathcote Nicholls, campaigner, born November 19, 1920; died January 24, 1996

If you didn't buy the...

HADYA

RIZLA

صحنه من الاعمال

How rising pri

Worm's eye

Trebles all round

Indicator

Stakeholding has its roots in a creed that has been frozen out during the bleak years of Thatcherite decline

# Keynes still has the answers



Will Hutton

FIFTY years ago this month, a 35-year-old economist published what remains the century's economic masterpiece. John Maynard Keynes's General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money may not be quite the holy grail of economics, but it is the nearest anybody has ever come.

ainties of laissez-faire or the wishful abstractions of socialist planning. Yet in 1996 all too few protest their loyalty to Keynes and Keynesianism. The old Keynesian confidence in both Britain and America that successful application of the tools of macroeconomic policy — the manipulation of government spending, taxation, borrowing and interest rates — can lift economic growth and move towards full employment has disappeared across the political spectrum.

leaves the macroeconomic high ground to conservative hands. It finally undermines the social democratic and liberal case. For what underpins the suspicion of macroeconomic activism are the great conservative ideological constraints. Markets are infallible. Free markets will work perfectly. As a result, the job of macroeconomic policy is to do as little as possible because, by definition, it will have little impact except, perhaps, in the short run.

much to empower labour when the demand for work is inadequate. To make technology, however useful, the centrepiece of a progressive agenda while giving up an activist macroeconomic policy is absurd. And be careful, he warns, about arguing for infrastructure spending because it boosts the productivity of the private sector; the evidence is not sufficiently robust. The better argument is that it lifts overall levels of demand and employment. It should be made in those terms.

and regulatory policy. Moreover, as Galbraith argues, the plank of conservative orthodoxy — that stimulating the economy risks inflation if unemployment falls below some natural rate ("Nairu") — the non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment — is proving an inoperable concept. For example, the US Federal Reserve, the Federal Reserve, raised interest rates in February 1994 because it thought unemployment was breaching its estimate that the Nairu was 6 per cent, and so inflation would rise; but it lowered rates 18 months later although unemployment was still below 6 per cent. Wage inflation never emerged, indeed, real wages carried on falling.

AT THE moment, with the deposits lodged with British financial institutions growing at 10 per cent annually, which all ultimately presage a growth in credit of 10 per cent, lowering interest rates further is not the best option. It risks stimulating further money and credit growth which, if industrial capacity does not rise, will sooner or later reignite inflation. The best course is to lift demand by raising investment directly.

Post Office to local authorities — to borrow directly in the capital markets for investment purposes. But little progress will be made in the private sector until the ridiculously high hurdle rates for new investment — still on average around 20 per cent — are cut. Short pay-back periods of some two to three years can be achieved in tandem.

stakeholder firms, in which more committed owners allow those expectations of financial returns to be lowered. It is thus the micro counterpart of Keynesian macroeconomics. The two go hand in hand so that lifting demand by a pensionary economic policy can then best be exploited by individual firms.

## How rising prices could save the Tories

Briefing Larry Elliott

ONE of the great myths about Mrs Thatcher is that she loathed vested interests. True, she distrusted the civil service, flogged off the nationalised industries and simply loathed the National Union of Mineworkers, but there were two groups for whom nothing was too much trouble.

"our people" is one reason for the whispering campaign against him by those dedicated to keeping the sacred flames of Thatcherism blazing brightly. Mr Major's heresy is seen as three-fold. First, he has reduced the value of mortgage interest relief. Second, he has encouraged the destruction of fledgling companies through his stubborn defence of sterling when Britain was in the Exchange Rate Mechanism. Finally, he has resisted the temptation to boost his popularity by rekindling house-price inflation — the one form of inflation of which Mrs Thatcher approved.

**Knock-on effect**

Rising house prices mean more new firms.

Real house prices

New business starts

1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994

\* Halifax house price index deflated by consumers' expenditure deflator. Source: UBS

importance. The research suggests that the accepted wisdom that the creation of small firms and rising house prices are symptomatic of a more robust economy — is wrong. Actually, it is the increase in house prices that triggers the growth in entrepreneurship.

One prime reason for this is that, in Britain's property-obsessed culture, the only collateral a businessman can put down for a loan is his home. If he needs capital, his property has to be worth something.

The conclusion of the research is that a 10 per cent rise in the net real value of

unreleased housing equity may have the effect of increasing the number of new business starts by 5 and 6 per cent. If this theory is correct, it becomes easier to see why investment has remained so sluggish during the recovery. Real house prices have risen 10 per cent over the past five years and only now are threatening to turn positive again.

## Why Labour should stake its credibility on Esops

Debate Andrew Pendleton

LABOUR'S City spokesman, Alistair Darling, has outlined proposals to develop employee share schemes as part of "stakeholder capitalism". For advocates of the stakeholder economy, these schemes offer several potential benefits. As well as rewarding employees for contributing to company prosperity, they might enable staff to influence company strategy. Voting rights attached to shares could give them a voice in the boardroom they never enjoyed as workers.

schemes have such limited potential. The Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Esop), developed initially in the US as an instrument of popular capitalism, offers much more to the supporters of stakeholder capitalism than "conventional" share schemes. As yet they are small in number in the UK (fewer than 100).

ations of equity to employees and certainly do not provide mechanisms for employees to influence company policy. Others have been set up by philanthropic owners to give employees a large share in the ownership and profits of the firm but not in corporate decision-making.

## Trebles all round on the telecoms Titanic

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

IN THE argot of the trades, a refuse collector is "on the dust" and a milkman "on the milk". Lavatory cleaners are, presumably, on the toilet, and City professionals (brokers, merchant bankers, etc) are on to a good thing.

on all sides as a magnificent achievement. The financial press will carry savoring headlines such as "A Truly Global Player" and "Britain in the Big League". The merged board will award itself a colossal pay rise.

in bars. They will all be fired. The financial press will hail this as a "long-overdue step-change in corporate culture" that will make the company "fit for the global marketplace".

understood how the whole thing worked. Earnings will crash, and shareholders will be furious. The board will require a colossal pay rise.

The fun will only just have started. Two weeks after demerger, AT&T (or someone) will align it out with France Telecom (or someone else) for the domestic arm, while a vast and anonymous Japanese concern will scrap with a huge German outfit you've never heard of for the overseas bit.

**Indicators**

TODAY — EU EMI Annual report.  
UK MO figures (prov. Mar).  
FR: Purchasing Mngs survey (Mar).  
FR: G7 Finance Ministers meeting on jobs.  
US: NAPM index (Mar).  
TOMORROW — UK: Halifax house prices (Mar).

**US: Leading indicators (Feb).**  
WEDNESDAY — US: BOE Treasury monetary meeting.  
US: Factory orders (Feb).  
EU: Markets closed for Good Friday.  
US: Non-Farm payrolls (Mar).  
US: Unemployment rate (Mar).  
Source: Kleinwort Benson Research

**Tourist rates — bank sells**

Australia 1.88	France 7.45	Italy 2.345	Singapore 2.10
Austria 15.25	Germany 2.2000	Malta 0.5400	South Africa 5.88
Belgium 44.90	Greece 362.00	Netherlands 2.4650	Spain 183.75
Canada 2.0125	Hong Kong 11.54	New Zealand 2.21	Sweden 10.00
Cyprus 0.8975	India 52.07	Norway 9.57	Switzerland 1.785
Denmark 8.48	Ireland 0.9425	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 86.800
Finland 6.98	Israel 4.75	Saudi Arabia 5.88	US 1.4825

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excludes Italy, France and Saudi Arabia) as at close of business on Friday

DRAMATIC GRAND NATIONAL CLAIMS ONE HORSE BUT DELIGHTS AN ARMY OF PUNTERS

Cynthia Bateman on how the best 12 minutes of one Irish jockey's life were followed by his most frightening moments — and vice versa

Blood, sweat and cheers

AT FIRST, all you could see above the masses of jockeys was one pricked ear. But it was now a very famous ear, as Rough Quest first past the post, took his place in the Aintree winners' enclosure with the sheen of velvet on his sweat-dark neck, the great nostrils on the chiselled head still breathing smoke after a magnificently jumped and tactically perfect 4 1/2 miles.



Trotting home... Rough Quest is led back into Bear Greave Stables, Dorking by his lad Geoff Cook with a hand from owner Andrew Wates. GEORGE SELWYN

But while the steam rose off the favourite to greet the judge, the Gritter in 1982, it was as bookies and the connections who were leaning on a stewards' bench. An estimated 450 million viewers worldwide looked on as thousands stood around on the course, quiet and apprehensive, and waited a full 10 minutes for the announcement that crowned Rough Quest as the 1982 Grand National winner.

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And so, the three men rode him out in training to confirm the view that he was in perfect shape. "Terry cured the muscle enzyme trouble and Mick sorted out the other problem," said Wates, referring to their fear of Rough Quest's leading too soon. Fitzgerald explained: "Once he's passed the last horse and gets in front he thinks he's done the job."

As it was, little was seen or heard of him until the 18th, the second fence of the second circuit. By then five of the 27 horses — the National's smallest field in 86 years — had gone. Among them was the mount of Jason Titley, a neck-and-neck front of three of Sir Peter Lely, Young Husker and Encore Un Peu.

The field stayed bunched, a great tidal wave of sound and colour, turf scattering like seagulls, and Son of War, another well-backed prospect and the only grey in the race, seemed to be challenging for Ireland until the Canal Turn, the 24th fence. There he negotiated the sharp left-hand bend splendidly while his jockey continued spectacularly in full flight in a straight line.

Thus down to 18, the horses flew along the path to glory. Deep Bramble was pulled up before the second-last and suddenly Rough Quest, with more than his share of the 280 million punters riding on him, was there in the space behind

Casey's luck turns to good from Rough

Chris Hawkins on the quiet man who had the final word

THEY talk about rough justice but for once Saturday's Martell Grand National result was totally just and a fitting reward for one of the most genuine and deserving men in racing — Terry Casey.

Not opinionated, not a blusterer, not a braggart, he does not stand out in a crowd and it is only the trainer's badge on his lapel which indicates his professional involvement. Casey, a small, dapper 50-year-old, has had some shattering reversals in life yet has bravely and quietly put them behind him to emerge triumphant.

own, cost him plenty of money. After that he thought about getting out of racing but answered an advert in the Sporting Life for someone to train for Jockey Club member Andrew Wates near Dorking, in Surrey.

That was at the beginning of last season and one of the horses he took over was Rough Quest, a talented but enigmatic performer prone to throw away races he should have won. We saw on Saturday that this temperamental quirk is still with him — where would he be from his nearly always drifts left or simply downs tools.

Exeter (N.H.) runners and riders

Table listing horse races at Exeter (N.H.) with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details.

Kelso jumping card with guide to the form

Table listing horse races at Kelso with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details.

Southwell all-weather flat programme

Table listing horse races at Southwell with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details.

Grand National placings

Table listing the placings for the Grand National race, including horse names, jockeys, and owners.

Table listing horse races at Exeter (N.H.) with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details.

Table listing horse races at Kelso with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details.

Table listing horse races at Southwell with columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and other details.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a grid of numbers and text: '1, ROUGH QUEST, M A Fitzgerald (7-1) Davi... 2, Encore Un Peu (4-1)...

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Hill a' and 'awley'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'صحنه من الاعمال'.



Soccer

Red rivals serve up a final rich in promise

David Lacey on a Wembley reunion to savour

THIS time Wembley can savour the prospect of an FA Cup final which would satisfy most tastes...



Standing out in the crowd... Ian Taylor watches helplessly as Robbie Fowler cracks home his and Liverpool's second goal at Old Trafford yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

It is surprising that Manchester United and Liverpool have not met again in one goal or the other before now...

They seeking to complete the Double of League and Cup. In 1994 they became the fourth club this century...

United managed to win their semi-final without controversy, although with Roy Keane it was a close-run thing...

ing a brief argument just past the hour. Last season Keane was sent off at Villa Park for stamping on Gareth Southgate...

said the United manager. "An FA Cup semi-final without some confrontations would not be a semi-final."

Just a couple of grouches. The Villa Park tie was played on a pitch resembling The Wash at low tide...

ford was more than 10,000 below capacity. Grass is better be grown in the West Midlands for Euro '96...

Premiership: QPR 3, Southampton 0

QPR can still banish dull care

Russell Thomas

RAY WILKINS, blessed with unflappable attitude and ready smile, is often asked whether he cares about QPR's plight...

Off the pitch, according to Wilkins, the principal aim is to remove anxiety from his players' minds. "I relax them the best way I can..."

Wilkins, meanwhile, spoke of a sense of unity within the club. "Rangers family after this first Premiership home win for three months..."

On his recent record — and because of two earlier magnificent saves here, curiously followed by goalkeepers — Beasant deserved better...

Bolton Wanderers 1, Manchester City 1

Impoverished scrap over the scraps

Paul Wilson

LAN BALL was unostentatiously blunt in his assessment of Manchester City's performance — "absolutely crap" but perfectly accurate...

above its main billing as a relegation scrap. Having been handed the lead at the first time of asking, with the debutant Bolton goalkeeper Ward having to fish Quinn's second-minute header from his net...

There was nothing controversial about the dismissal except that Thompson was lucky to be on the field after scything down Kinkiadze in the ninth minute...

There was nothing controversial about the dismissal except that Thompson was lucky to be on the field after scything down Kinkiadze in the ninth minute...



Ball... blunt appraisal

Tottenham Hotspur 3, Coventry City 1

Big Ron foxed by Gray matter

Nell Robinson

WERE you watching Andy Gray? Ron Atkinson would not be drawn on what the television pundit who savaged his team last Monday might have made of this latest debacle...

his Coventry team. On Saturday Ndlovu was maddeningly transient and Richardson, despite a superb pass to set up Dublin's crackjack opener...

Leeds United 0, Middlesbrough 1

Spluttering Leeds start planning for the summer holidays

Ian Ross

COMPLEX by nature yet incisive when gifted a suitable platform upon which to unfurl his engaging homespun logic, Howard Wilkinson was back in the groove early on Saturday evening...

sejour in the sun would come self-healing and reconciliation with his countless detractors. Yet those with short tempers and even shorter memories who spat out their venom as Wilkinson walked, head bowed, towards the Wembley dressing rooms should consider where Leeds might be today but for him...

see over that edge, and that's what makes it worthwhile. The afternoon held no luck for Leeds. It started badly and fell away quickly, once Raedebe had conceded a third-minute penalty which Kavanagh converted.

icantly more promise than trying to pick out Deane, who was present. Even so, a point would have been theirs had McAllister not lifted his penalty kick high over the bar after Cox had barged into Deane early in the second half...

First Division: Derby County 3, Stoke City 1

Flu-brush fires Derby

Jeremy Alexander

TWO points from four games called for desperate measures, more desperate than "Pickering" about on the transfer market. Jim Smith took Derby to Blackpool.

and, by his poise in possession, took the frantic out of Derby's attack. The substitution also persuaded Smith to abandon 3-3 for 4-2-1. The new arrangement gave Darryl Powell room to avoid his own men in midfield...

moved through the table with Derby. But, though they want 10 games conceding four goals before last weekend, they also went five away without scoring one.

Millwall 1, Crystal Palace 4

Millwall a comedy of errors

Robert Pryor

SUNSET in South Bermondsey made a particularly vivid change, considering that an hour previously the air above the New Den had turned blue. Millwall fans react passionately to the game's every aspect and recently most aspects of their games have been vile.

The game has a few cruel tricks to play, as it demonstrated to Keller, but on the whole it chooses the least resourceful as its victims. On Saturday Rae had a penalty saved, Van Blerk was sent off for two guileless offences and Millwall were seriously frustrated by Martyn, who triumphed over an injury that would have removed him from the line-up had an experienced replacement been available...

two minutes, finishing with a feebly hit overhead kick that dribbled past Keller. One fanzine correspondent described McCarthy's team as Millwall's worst in more than a decade. Nicholl has effected repairs, moving Van Blerk and others into more appropriate positions and bringing in new wingers, but he has yet to be rewarded by results.

Scottish round-up

Cadete recruited too late as Rangers charge from rear

Patrick Glenn

JORGE CADETE may be required tonight to bring succour to Celtic supporters whose spirits are sinking with every stride Rangers take towards the Premier Division championship. The Portuguese striker, whose international clearance arrived only on Saturday, will probably begin his Celtic career on the substitutes' bench for the match against Aberdeen at Parkhead.

half goal by Duffield and a penalty from Kirkwood, separate by McCol's penalty for the champions. Gascoigne had been subdued by Rougier, and Laudrup was unable to make an impression. The result was a general disengagement from which it seemed Rangers could not recover. But Rougier was taken off 14 minutes from the end, Gascoigne looked as though he had the leg irons removed and McCol scored twice more from corners by the England midfielder.

صحنه من العمل

Filbert Street Police alert

صوتنا من الاجل

Soccer

Filbert Street police alert

THE police will be on their toes at Filbert Street for the rest of the season after a Leicester City supporters' club representative yesterday warned of further violence to follow that in the aftermath of Saturday's loss to Sheffield United.



Going to ground... Ford, Harris and Hilton manage to halt the progress of Leeds's McDermott. PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

Neck injury threat to Clarke career

SYDNEY Roosters coach Phil Gould confirmed last night that the Great Britain and former Wigan forward Phil Clarke would not play again this season following a serious neck injury in Australia, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

Clarke, 34, was taken to a field hospital before being taken to the spinal unit of Sydney's Royal North Shore hospital where doctors confirmed a triple fracture of the fourth vertebra.

Rugby League

Super League: Leeds 18, Warrington 22

Scrambling Wire clinging to victory

Paul Fitzpatrick

MUCH of the so-called entertainment accompanying this first Super League fixture at Headingley was the crime writer Raymond Chandler's words, have turned a goat brought up on broken beer bottles and barbed wire sick.

another Warrington success. He is on the transfer list and is possibly playing for his place in Super League. "I won't hesitate to take players off the list if I think they deserve it," said Murphy, "and, was very, very impressed by Ford."

Telepathic suits second referee

Edie Hennings

SKY TV's commentaries on Saturday night during the Oldham-Wigan game at Boundary Park, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

ering raids. This is Wigan at their most basic and made nonsense of any suggestions of decline.

Weekend results

Soccer

FA Cup

Table showing FA Cup semi-finals results: Aston Villa 0-0, Liverpool 1-0, Manchester City 1-0, Southampton 1-0.

English League

Table showing English League Premier Division results: Arsenal 1-0, Liverpool 1-0, Manchester United 1-0, Tottenham 1-0.

Scottish League

Table showing Scottish League Premier Division results: Rangers 1-0, Celtic 1-0, Aberdeen 1-0, Dundee 1-0.

Rugby League

Table showing Rugby League Super League results: Leeds 18, Warrington 22, Bradford 18, Hull 18.

Sport in brief

Revived Graf puts in a perfect hour

STEFFI GRAF shrugged off months of injury and personal setbacks to produce a flawless display and earn £140,000 in 55 minutes by disposing of the American Chanda Rubin 6-1, 6-3 in the Lipton Championship final in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Football

Table showing Football League Premier Division results: Arsenal 1-0, Liverpool 1-0, Manchester United 1-0, Tottenham 1-0.

Scottish Football

Table showing Scottish Football Premier Division results: Rangers 1-0, Celtic 1-0, Aberdeen 1-0, Dundee 1-0.

Rugby League

Table showing Rugby League Super League results: Leeds 18, Warrington 22, Bradford 18, Hull 18.

Cricket

Table showing Cricket Test matches results: Australia 188, Canada 79, New Zealand 188, Sri Lanka 188.

Snooker

Table showing Snooker World Snooker results: Mike Hallett 5-3, Stephen Hendry 5-3.

Football

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Rough Quest returns home in triumph, page 12

Sheffield celebrate victory on ice, page 13

Three-goal lifeline for QPR, page 14

SportsGuardian

FA CUP SEMI-FINALS: YOU

Liverpool 3, Aston Villa 0

Fowler flourish finishes Villa

Martin Thorpe at Old Trafford

IT HAS been quite a week in quite a season for Robbie Fowler. Voted FA Young Player of the Year last Sunday, awarded his first England cap on Wednesday, the Toxteth Terrier topped off the lot with two goals yesterday to confirm Liverpool's renaissance as a major power and propel them into a mouth-watering final against Manchester United.

You'll Never Walk Alone rang out. Liverpool were back in the FA Cup final

first-half foul on him by Scales, and James prevented a second-half equaliser with an improbable reflex save.

Villa, behind after only 16 minutes, bounced back well and, led by the buzzing Draper, hustled and busted the passing momentum out of the Liverpool midfield, especially after the interval, but just could not find the net.

Fowler struck again three minutes from time with a sumptuous volley, and McAteer added an unfair third in injury time.

There was no dishonour in Villa's defeat. Brian Little's achievement in turning last season's relegation contenders into Coca-Cola Cup winners, with its accompanying place in Europe, and possession of a Premiership top-four place has been one of the wonders of the season.

But they could not suppress another wonder of the season. Fowler, with his old head on young shoulders — he will be 21 next week — took his goal total to 33, five now against Villa in three games and at least one in every round of the Cup. Geoff Hurst will recognise the increasing irresistibility of Fowler's late run into the England reckoning for Euro '96.

Despite both sides playing the Continental sweeper system, it was the good old set piece which put Liverpool

McManaman on the left and Redknapp speared a cross into the Villa area. Fowler, stooping low, produced a diving header which rocketed the ball into the corner of Bosnich's goal. Again there was a touch of bad luck for Villa: Southgate had just come back to the pitch after treatment to an injury and was slow in picking up the striker.

Five minutes later the England defender had to be substituted but Villa made light of the loss. They might have had a penalty when Taylor was sandwiched by McManaman and Scales, the latter stretching his leg across the midfielder's chest.

Then James made a brave block when Yorkie, a yard out, got what had looked like a conclusive touch to Elliott's header. But then Villa's finishing let them down. Draper shot over, Milosevic shot wide, then was put through on James but allowed the keeper to shepherd him away.

After the interval Villa picked up the same script: Townsend, Draper and Taylor disrupting Liverpool's passing movements, Staunton fired over, then James made his wonder save. Milosevic's header finding Elliott a yard out but the keeper somehow managing to hold his shot.

If anything that was the turning point. Slowly, ominously, Liverpool came back into the game. Bosnich had to be quick to block Fowler's pounce on McGrath's under-hit back-pass, the 36-year-old veteran redeemed himself with a great tackle to thwart Collymore, who seconds later skewed another inviting chance wide.

Barnes already had his fourth FA Cup final in his sights when his sublime strike from 30 yards was touched on to the woodwork by Bosnich before, finally, the second goal came. Staunton headed out Redknapp's free-kick but only to Fowler, who teed up a volley and rifled it past Bosnich off the far post.

McManaman's run down the left set up an easy close-range third for McAteer and that was it. The Villa fans rightly offered their defeated heroes a chorus of thunderous applause as they trooped off, while a familiar and colourful sight was in full display in the magnificent new stand. The Gags swirled, the scarves stretched head-high. You'll Never Walk Alone rang out. Liverpool were back in the FA Cup final.

Author: Villa: Booth, Charles, Wright, Shephard, McGrath, Southgate, Staunton, Elliott, Taylor, Draper, Townsend, Little, Johnson, 76, Yorkie.

Liverpool: James, Jones, Wright, Scales, Reddock, McAteer, McManaman, Redknapp, Collymore (Rush, 85), Barnes, Fowler.

Wembley bound... Fowler milks the applause TOM JENKINS



Last touch... Cole forces home Cantona's header to bring United level at Villa Park yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

Manchester United 2, Chelsea 1

United turn the tide red

Chelsea pay for defensive lapses

David Lacey at Villa Park

MANCHESTER United reached their 14th FA Cup final and their third in successive seasons, yesterday after building their ramparts on sand. In the end they knew too much for Chelsea, but to a certain extent Glenn Hoddle's team beached themselves.

Having dominated large areas of the first half, on a ploughman's hunch of a pitch, Chelsea looked well worth the lead the head of Gullit had given them in the 34th minute. They were then undone by goals from Cole and Beckham in the space of six minutes early in the second half. The winner coming after a basic error by Burley.

One of the more entertaining FA Cup semi-finals owed nearly as much to the uncertainties in United's defence, and the injuries that subsequently weakened Chelsea at the back, as it did to the attacking excellence of both sides. Gullit was master of the first half, Cantona the second.

script. While they waited for prompts, Gullit kept popping up like the demon king. United could have lost the semi-final before half-time. Eventually they won it while Phelan, having pulled up with a thigh strain five minutes into the second half, was trying to run off the injury. United's first goal was due directly to his inability to get back and cover.

By the time Peacock came on pitch, four minutes past the hour, Chelsea were 2-1 down. Having already lost Clarke, who had switched to right-back in place of the suspended Petrescu, with Myers joining Duberry and Lee in the middle, Hoddle's side ended up trying to save the game without the wisdom and speed on the flanks that have done so much to make them a better team.

The state of a heavily sanded pitch did not encourage flowing football but the quality of the passing, particularly from United, remained high. Keane, Butt and Giggs rarely wasted the ball. Cole again missed chances but remained hard-working and imaginative throughout, and Cantona's vision, along with his sense of time and space eventually upstaged the genius of Gullit.

For a time, however, the Dutchman promised to inspire a famous Chelsea victory. Duberry had responded

to Giggs volleying Beckham's cross against a post in the fifth minute by hitting the underside of the United bar in the 15th. And four minutes past the half-hour Hughes overpowered Beckham and played a one-two with Spencer before centring beautifully from the left for Gullit to head in powerfully but easily at the far post.

Three minutes before half-time Cantona met a clearance from Lee with a first-time right-foot shot against the near post, enough to convince United that the afternoon might still be theirs. And so it was soon to prove. Nine minutes into the second half, with Phelan caught upfield, Beckham found Phil Neville on the

left and he slipped past Spencer before his cross was helped on towards the far post by Johnsen's attempted clearance. Cantona's header was aimed towards the top far corner of the net and Cole flung up a foot to deflect the ball over the line.

Five minutes later Chelsea were done for. Burley tried to volley the ball back to Hitchcock but had failed to spot Beckham striding through in the inside-right position. Given a clear run at goal, Beckham kept his head and although his drive lacked power it was still beyond the reach of Hitchcock, who had thrown himself on to the wrong foot by anticipating a shot inside the near post.

Two minutes later Spencer's well-struck shot beat the stretching Schmeichel but Cantona was behind the goalkeeper to head the ball off the line. "I've never seen him so deep," said Ferguson, adding: "We were the better team and deserved to go through."

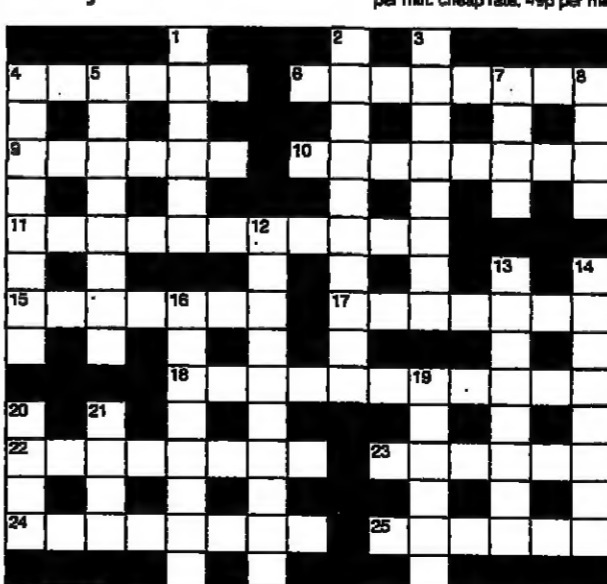
In the end perhaps, but there will be few better chances of seeing Ruud Gullit in an FA Cup final. Again Wembley will have to settle for Eric Cantona. Manchester United: Schmeichel, P. Neville, G. Neville, May, Sharpe, Beckham, Butt, Keane, Giggs, Cole, Cantona. Chelsea: Hitchcock, Duberry, Lee, Purton, Brown, Myers, Clarke, Johnson, 28, Burley, Gullit, Wiso, Phelan (Peacock, 6), Spencer, Hughes.

Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley) More soccer, page 14

Guardian Crossword No 20,615

Set by Janus

22 Start! Then call our solutions line on 0203 533 2222. Calls cost 35p per min. cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T.



Across

- 4 One may get it for a pound! (6)
6 Theoretical sailor's region (8)
9 Trap set on board to catch fish (6)
10 Plush words about border-flower (8)
11 Take for one's own if suitable (11)
15 Did she choose the right one? (7)
17 Fish supporter in a perfect world (7)
18 Compromise musicians often make (11)
22 Model knocking work of hunter (8)
23 Hopeless horse must trouble the queen (6)
24 He might pray to find one in church (8)

Down

- 1 Fate the clergy love to follow (6)
2 Deviation from miserably bare allowance (10)
3 A politician caught in wild steed's mad rush (8)
4 Spend a long time in corridors (8)
5 Fought, then thrown aside (8)
7 Thus parent applied to be a prophet (8)
8 Are they worn because of obligations? (4)
12 Settles again in the back rows (10)
13 Councillor planting tree on island (8)
14 Tries Hay diet in emotional state (8)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,608

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Geoffrey Caton of Lanchester, Cornwall, R. A. Brinkworth of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, Gary & Margaret Shekdrake of Holywood, Co. Down, N. Ireland, C. M. L. Kedde of Preocok, Merseyside, and S. Nicholas of Withern, Essex.

- 16 He says nothing about very quiet drag-artists (8)
19 Once disastrously lost in praises (6)
20 Way to measure dam (4)
21 Flaw never seen in fine linen (4)

Solution tomorrow

Hill flawless in the rain

DAMON HILL was never headed on his way to a commanding 17sec win in the Brazilian Grand Prix yesterday which gave him a perfect score of 20 in the drivers' championship after starting the Formula One season with victory in Melbourne. The Briton dominated the race from pole position after a downpour hit the Interlagos circuit in Sao Paulo shortly before the start. Forcing his opponents to ride in his spray for much of the 73-lap race, the Williams driver gave a flawless display to come in clear of the Frenchman Jean Alesi's Benetton. The double world champion Michael Schumacher gave Ferrari a fillip with third place, his first points

for the Italian team. Hill's team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, an unlucky second on his debut in Australia, fell victim to the rain. Having attacked boldly from third on the grid and almost overtaking Hill, the Canadian spun off while duelling with Alesi on lap 27.

Alan Henry, page 13

Windows are just sheets of glass set directly into the ground with no superfluous frames. Floors are made in the most simple, uncomplicated way from broad planks of wood, laid if possible in continuous strips to eliminate the joints. Even the nails are hidden. John Pawson

G2 page 12



صوتك من الاجل

America new civi

Police wi

S

Britain's

B

Inside